



# MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

## OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

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September 2006

### INSIDE SEPTEMBER'S ISSUE

#### SECTION A - Tribal



Inside Section A of *The Muscogee Nation News*: Ropes Course challenge at Eufaula Dormitory p. 5; Termination of the Veteran' Emergency Financial Assistance Program p. 7; Challenge Bowl to award first Annual Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship p. 8.

#### SECTION B - Features



Section B of *The Muscogee Nation News*: 2006 Circle of Nations p.3; Artist is Ven-triloquist and Puppeteer p.5; California Creek Association holds 5th Annual meeting p. 6; NABI Tournament running full force in 2006 p. 8.

#### SECTION C - Constitution



Section C of *The Muscogee Nation News*: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Constitution, as amended through February 18, 2006.

#### NEW CONSTRUCTION

##### UPDATE FROM TRANSIT AUTHORITY MANAGER BEN CHANEY

The Transit Authority Office Headquarters building is nearing completion. The new building is approximately 3,000 square feet with a total cost of \$500,000, funded through the Indian Reservation Road Program. The Transit Authority and Federal Roads Program will occupy this building. All main stops for all daily routes will stop at this location, as well as a stop for daily city routes.

The move-in date is scheduled for the first or second week of September. A Grand Opening for the Transit Authority Building is set for September 28.

#### SEPTEMBER'S REMINDER

Beginning on Sept. 4, the Native News Today television program will be shown seven days a week at 9:30 p.m. on cable channel 70. Because of recent technical difficulties, Cox was unable to broadcast the television show. Because of the inconvenience this may have caused, Cox Communications will broadcast the show during the timeframe listed above free of charge.

Council Oak Tree Ceremony will be held Oct. 21 at 2 p.m. located on 18th and Cheyenne. For more information contact Cherrah Quiett at (918) 520-9161 or Ruth Bible at (918) 732-7642.

## California Muscogee (Creek) Association's 5th Annual meeting



Tribal officials, such as Chief Ellis and Speaker George Tiger, and California Muscogee Creek Association (CMCA) board members and members of the community pose for a group photo following a meeting held at El Segundo, California on Aug. 5. *photo by Ruth Bible*

by Ruth Bible

MNN Staff Writer

CALIFORNIA — Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and tribal officials met with approximately 600 total California residents on Saturday Aug. 5, at El Segundo and on Sunday Aug. 6 at Oak Grove Park in Stockton.

Representatives from several tribal offices were present to answer questions from the area residents. Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, Chief of Staff Mike Flud, Execu-

tive Director Claude Sumner, Tribal Affairs Director Allen Harjo, Judge Patrick Moore and Sue Ann Sparks Court Clerk explained the constitution amendments procedures with interested parties.

"We of the Creek Nation here in California are extremely grateful that Chief Ellis took time out from his busy schedule and brought his staff out to us who made themselves available to address our needs," said Wes and Geri Sawyer of Sac-

ramento. "We really enjoyed Chief Ellis and staff joining in, meeting with us, sharing information and laughing with us."

All tribal agencies had tables set up with information pertaining to their programs. Jason Nichols, Acting Gaming Commissioner, gave a brief outline about what gaming revenue does for tribal citizens.

Chief Ellis gave a power point presentation showing the progress of the tribe over the past few years.

Following Chief Ellis, Judge Moore presented the Constitutional amendment power point and instruction how to submit any amendments.

Eli Grayson was recognized for the countless hours spent organizing and planning both days activities. CMCA Officers applauded Grayson for his efforts to educate and promote the Muscogee Culture.

## Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride returns to Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE—The 13th Annual Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride® will arrive at the Creek Council House Museum in downtown Okmulgee at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2006.

This will be the culmination of a three day ride that begins in Chattanooga, Tenn. on Saturday and follows an approximate route similar to that traveled by several of the southeastern Tribes as they were sent to Indian Territory on the infamous Trail of Tears in the 1830's. This will mark the second year the Ride has ended at the Muscogee Nation honoring the Muscogee people.

According to Vicky Karhu, last year's ride leaders said that they felt so welcome they decided to come back to Okmulgee with hopes of ending the long journey in the Muscogee Nation each year.

Approximately 300 to 400 riders will be coming to Okmulgee, including groups from Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Florida and Kentucky. Na-

tive American riders are planning to meet the Ride here from South Dakota and New Mexico.

A group of local riders will meet at the rodeo arena parking lot at Noon on Sept. 18 to ride out to the Creek Nation boundary to meet the others.

A "Warm Mvskoike Welcome," sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade and Commerce Authority, the Creek Council House Museum, Okmulgee Main Street and the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, will be held at the Creek Council House Museum with cold water for the riders, a Victory Stompdance and a special downtown merchant sidewalk sale.

Activities will begin at 3:30 p.m. and last until 5:30 p.m. Following the activities, a traditional meal, prepared by Mvskoike Food Sovereignty Initiative, will be served at the Indian Methodist District Center in Preston Ok., along with music and cultural exhibits and demonstrations.

For more information or to register to ride out to meet the other riders, call Vicky at (918) 470-3819.



## Ground moving begins at Tulsa site

by Jason Salsman

MNN Staff Writer

TULSA — The fertile bottoms that run alongside the Arkansas River in south Tulsa are usually nice and quiet. That was not the case this past week, as bulldozers and construction workers began clearing the woods to make room for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's highly anticipated 285,000 square ft. gaming and entertainment center.

Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, as well as several tribal dignitaries and officials, were on hand to

witness the progress on the site. The \$120 million facility will be a testament to the strong presence of the tribe in the city of Tulsa and in the State of Oklahoma.

"It's great to be here now, to see this and show the citizens that we are moving forward with this facility," said Ellis.

Ellis was informed by construction officials that the center is scheduled for completion in approximately 20 months.



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis presents Ball Sticks to the Marines of the Broken Arrow Reserve Command in appreciation for their continuing support of Muscogee Veterans. Pictured, from left to right, is 1st Sgt. Gerardo Ochoa USMC, Chief Ellis, and Major Steve Sims USMC. *photo by Josh Slane*

Office of the Principal Chief

by Chief A.D. Ellis

Mvto to all the Muscogee Creeks in Cailifornia who welcomed our group early this month.

We hope we informed the hundreds of Creek people in both L.A. and northern California about the Creek Nation. I appreciate the many staff and employees who worked Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday we all traveled over 700 miles and conducted a positive meeting in Stockton. This resulted in a meeting that the California Creek now know that they are an important part of our nation.

Last week was the open house for the new Head Start building on the capitol grounds. Please come and visit all the new construction that is going to benefit our children and citizens. We really appreciate Congressman Dan Boren and his wife for helping us dedicate this project. The new Tulsa casino is finally under construction so look for monthly updates.

I have set the date of Septem-



ber 16 for this years annual church leaders summit. We welcome all church leaders to learn the progress

and what is available to assist each other to better serve our Creek citizens.

Also school days are here again and we are working daily to complete the school clothing program. My thanks to all who have made the program a success for the National Council, the Finance Department, Children’s Services and all others a big Mvto.

The Constitution Committee is now working very hard to handle all suggestions to change our constitution to better serve our nation. I urge that everyone get involved if they have new ideas that will improve and update this important doc-

ument. One important part of our governmental function was recently killed by the Business and Government committee in our membership in the 5 Tribes Intertribal Council. This intertribal council represented about 500,000 Indians in eastern Oklahoma and is a powerful force in Washington D.C. The five chiefs have met several times in Washington D.C. the last three years to get commitments from the powers that control. Membership has lasted for fifty six years. Restructuring cost each tribe \$50,000 for full time office and personal etc. The other four tribes have paid so I guess we’re no longer a member. Cherokee, Choc-taw, Chickasaw and Seminole. I believe this intertribal council is very important to this nation and our people to have a strong voice in our nation’s capitol.

Until we meet again, Best of Times to all families and may you all be blessed.

Mvto  
Chief A.D. Ellis

P.S. Today, August 28th I visited the site of the new Tulsa casino and the bulldozers are moving dirt. After three years

of stalling I hope everyone is as excited as I am to see the actual construction under way.

Victim Impact Statement

My name is A.D. Ellis and I am the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Previously I was Second Chief and I have served as a National Council Representative of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I have served my Nation in official capacity for 15 years. I have heard many times how easy it is to steal from the Nation because no one will do anything about it. Often, because of jurisdictional issues, the Nation can do nothing to the individuals who steal from the Nation.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation does not issue per capita payments to it’s members. Any money stolen from the Nation directly impacts the services the Nation can provide it’s members, those members who desperately need the assistance. When someone steals money from the Nation’s casinos they are stealing money from an elderly person who needs a meal; a child who needs clothing; a family who needs food; a sick person who needs electricity and other utilities. When the Nation can not independently provide the services, then the burden falls on the state and federal government to help those in need.

We need to send a message to those that steal from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that we will not tolerate stealing. They need to understand that stealing from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is far reaching and effects more than the casino itself. Those that steal from tribal governments should be treated the same as those that steal from municipalities, the states and the federal government.

Second Opinion

by Second Chief Alfred Berryhill

Greetings. The following is a continuation of excerpts from a book titled “*Apalachee The Land between the Rivers*” by John H. Hann: “*Translation of the Ball Game Manuscript*”. “The second [rule is] that they should order four or five elderly men to go



to sleep. And, that, early in the morning, they should tell what they dreamed about to the leading men or to whomever the ball-game courier reported to. And it is said that, if one dreams that the enemy entered from a certain direction and killed them and took what they had, it is a bad dream. Consequently, they are not to put the benches for the players on that side, because they would lose. And, if the other one said that he dreamed that a very gallant chief entered from such a direction with many gifts that he distributed among them, it was a good dream. The benches for the [players] should be placed on that side.

The third [rule is] that they must make a new fire and that they are not to approach it; nor are they to use it for anything other than what it is destined for, because to use it so, they believe without a doubt, would make them lose, even if it were [merely] for smoking tobacco. (5) And they must carry it [the new fire] to the ball game in some bundles of lighted palm-thatch. (6) They are accustomed to place this in front of themselves.

FOOTNOTES:

5. For purposes of literalness, it should be noted that the Spanish expression here is *chapar*, “to suck,” rather than *fumar*, “to smoke.”

6. The Spanish here, “en unos mechones de guano encendido,” could be rendered also “in some bundles of lighted Spanish moss.”

The fourth [rule is] that, on entering into the plaza, they should not enter with all the people who have consented of their own accord to play. If it was arranged for fifty persons, let them enter with four or five less. And when they ask them if you have all the people assembled, let them say

the do not, that they lack so many. And if they then command them to include [some] from the young men and from the other people, who are there, it would appear to be considered as a good sign that they will win. And thus he did it. And thus they have continued doing it. And this and all the rest [is] the worst of it in our view, as will be seen. This occurs in all the places of Apalachee, being common and equal in all the province. And because they were considered simple people *suiaj* they passed for such, when it was us in effect who were the simpletons. (7)

FOOTNOTE:

7. I was not able to decipher the not very legible word that I have written as *suiaj*, which follows *por simplasos*, “simple people.”

They entered the plaza and, on being asked if their people were assembled and at full strength, those on Ytonanslac’s side said “no,” that they were short so many people. The rivals told them that they should choose from those young men who were in the vicinity. They called to *eslafiayupi*, the son of Nicotajulo, he who killed the eagle and tricked the snakes, etc., and who gave the appearance of being ill, leaning up against a post, wrapped with a cloak of feathers. And upon his entering the game, the battle was begun. And when those of Ytonanslac had reached seven, *eslafiayupi* let out a thunderous roar and they were all terrified. And *eslafiayupi* was recognized for Nicoguada, who is the Lightning-flash, son of Nicotajulo and of the sun, who is nico. And since then it has remained for an omen that the first who arrived at seven would win because Nicoguada, helped him. And the rivals lose heart at once. And they were accustomed to tell this story every night, sometimes in the council house and sometimes under the ball post.

After having lost at the ball [game], Ochuna Nicoguada challenged Nicoguada to play at *el quiso* which is the game

which, at the beginning, I said all these nations play, which is with a stone and two poles, for, as I say, he challenged Nicoguada, and having won from him all that he had, they say that he tried to ensnare him and he pretended to the aforesaid Ochuna Nicoguada that he was thirsty and wanted to go to drink. (8) And they san nicoguada hit the ground with the sticks sharp end [and] made water spring forth and said to him, “Drink.” At this poing he pretended to need to relieve himself.(9) And finally he said he was going to light a tobacco and entered into a house and opened a hole [in the wall] and fled to Apalachocolo. And Nicoguada then went in search of him with his warriors. And they say that he formed much fog, dold mists, [and] frost, etc.(10) But despite it all he vanquished him and killed him and his warriors. And his vassals fashioned the ball pole for him that is shown here on this page, the nature of which, with God’s help, I shall go on explaining.

concerning the (11) with which he killed the eagle. At the foot of this pole they are to place or bury a scalp from a dead person in memory of Ytonaslac, its founder, great grandfather of Nicoguada. The little sticks with which they adorn (12) it have to be of sassafras and of no other wood. They have to raise it with wild grapevines, and not with anything else, even though they might have ropes, as happened to me when I gave them ropes. The answered me, “No,” that the former were stronger and that they were [used] in memory of those which he [Eslafiayupi] carried with him, when he went for the arrow shafts, from which he made the hoops with which he tricked the snakes. Consequently, they made and established this ball post of the devil to the honor of Nicoguada, to put it better, with all its frauds, as is seen. And this is not the end of it, as will be seen. And this has been the acclaimed and celebrated, etc. [ball game].  
=====TO BE CONTINUED=====

FOOTNOTES:

8. From this point to the end of the paragraph the story line seems to become confused. As a result vari-

ous sections of it have been rendered differently by the three people who have dealt with it. In the Granberry (n.d.) version Eslafiayupi challenges Ochuna Nicoguada to the game of chunky and wins it as well. It is Eslafiayupi who pretends to be thirsty, and it is he who finally is killed by Ochuna Nicoguada. In the Peterson (1976) version of this passage and in the Bushnell article on the ball game, Ochuna Nicoguada challenges Eslafiayupi to a game of chunky and wins it and pretends to be thirsty. But it is Eslafiayupie who emerges victorious at the end in tracking down and killing Ochuna Nicoguada. My rendition of these murky passages differs in places from both of these earlier versions. There seem to be no doubt that Ochuna Nicoguada challenged Eslafiayupi to the game of chunky and won it. Consequently, Grannberry’s version seems to be in error on this point. However, I agree with the Granberry version that Eslafiayupi pretended to be thirsty. Although both Peterson’s and Bushnell’s versions make more sense logically on this point, in terms of what one would expect the story to be, their rendition seems to be ruled out grammatically by the phrase “*fingio al tal Ochuna Nicoguada*.” There Ochuna Nicoguada is clearly the indirect object of the verb *fingio*, “pretended,” not its subject. Jeanette Thurber Connor has, I believe, pointed the path out of this maze. In a penciled note on the typescript of her transcription of this document (9p. 12), she observed, “The friar forgets to explain that after Eslafiayupi killed Nicoguada he took his place and his name. From now on he calls Eslafiayupi Nicoguada.” If one applies that last sentence to the remainder of this paragraph beginning with “And they say Nicoguada hit the ground” to interpret this Nicoguada as the former Eslafiayupi, one has a satisfactory story.

9. The Spanish here reads “Aqui fingio tener necesiadad corporal de usar desualbadanar.” I could not locate the word *albadanar*, but the meaning is clear.

10. The Spanish here is “nieblas frios gelos.”

11. The copyist may have omitted something here. “Explaining,” the last word preceding the illustration, is followed by a comma. The illustration fills the lower two-thirds of the page. The next page begins with

the incomplete phrase “concerning the with which he killed the eagle,” which is followed by a period.

12. The Spanish verb here, *estofan*, has in modern Spanish the literal meaning “to quit,” “to put embossed painting on a gilt ground,” or “to size carvings before gildin g.” On the drawing of the goalpost, the word *Atari* is written in minuscule letters under each of the sassafras pegs that adorn each side. And there is a tasse-like appendage on each peg.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers’ letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of the previous month. The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens’ households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

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OKMULGEE— THE FOL-  
LOWING CONSISTS OF ACTIONS OF  
THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NA-  
TIONAL COUNCIL CONDUCTED AT  
THE JUNE 24, 2006, REGULAR SES-  
SION.

**JUNE 24, REGULAR SESSION**  
REPRESENTATIVES EX-  
CUSED ARE: **RICHARD BERRYHILL**,  
WAGONER; **LARRY BIBLE**, TULSA;  
**SYLVANNA CALDWELL**,  
TUKVPTCE; AND **DUKE HARJO**,  
CREEK.

ABSENT WAS: **DUKE HARJO**,  
CREEK DISTRICT; **SYLVANNA**  
**CALDWELL**, TUKVPTCE DIS-  
TRICT; **LARRY BIBLE**, TULSA DIS-  
TRICT; **RICHARD BERRYHILL**,  
WAGONER DISTRICT.

SPEAKER **GEORGE TIGER**,  
CREEK DISTRICT, CONDUCTED  
THE MEETING AND DID NOT  
VOTE.

IN ORDER OF BUSINESS  
• **NO ACTION, MOTION DID**  
**NOT RECEIVE A SECOND TR 06-**  
**030**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION  
OF **DEL NUTTER** TO THE POSITION  
OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF  
THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
HEALTH SYSTEM **Sponsor: Tom**  
**Pickering**

• **POSTPONED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**053**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
TO TAKE THE NECESSARY AND AP-  
PROPRIATE ACTION TO ENSURE  
THAT THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK)  
NATION RECEIVES FULL FUNDING  
FROM THE IHS AS APPROPRIATED  
BY THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 2006 **Sponsor: Tom**  
**Pickering**

• **APPROVED (20-1-0) TR 06-**  
**076**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
TO EXECUTE A MASTER POST  
WARRANTY SERVICES AGREEMENT  
TO COMMERCIAL ELEC-  
TRONICS CORPORATION TO PRO-  
VIDE MAINTENANCE ON THE  
HIGHER GROUND RECORDING  
SYSTEM FOR THE LIGHTHORSE  
POLICE **Sponsor: Eddie LaGrone**  
VOTING NO WERE: **THO-**  
**MAS MCINTOSH**, MCINTOSH DIS-  
TRICT.

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**079**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING THE CHARTER OF  
FORMATION OF THE COLLEGE OF  
THE MUSCOGEE NATION AND AU-  
THORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF  
AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF  
THE COLLEGE OF THE MUSCOGEE  
NATION ENACT SAID CHARTER  
**Sponsor: Thomas Yahola; Co-**  
**Sponsor(s): K. Johnson; R. Jones**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**080**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION RE-  
GARDING THE FINANCING OF A  
EUFAULA HEALTH CLINIC DE-  
CLARING AN OFFICIAL INTENT TO  
REIMBURSE FOR EXPENSES IN-  
CURRED PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF  
THE BORROWING **Sponsor: Tom**  
**Pickering**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**082**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING THE OFFICE OF PUB-  
LIC GAMING TO EXECUTE A  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-  
STANDING FOR ATTORNEY SER-  
VICES WITH NANCY McALISTER  
LAW FIRM, P.C. **Sponsor: Sam**  
**Alexander**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**083**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION SUP-  
PORTING THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION HEALTH SYSTEM  
BOARD IN MAKING APPLICATION  
FOR A FISCAL YEAR 2007 BIA IN-  
DIAN HIGHWAY SAFETY PRO-

GRAM (IHSP) GRANT FOR THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
CHILD PROTECTION SAFETY  
PROJECT-2006, A COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION LIGHTHORSE PO-  
LICE DEPARTMENT **Sponsor: Lena**  
**Wind**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**089**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
AMENDING THE  
HOMEOWNERSHIP AND RENTAL  
PROPERTIES POLICIES TO INCLUDE  
STIPULATIONS FOR OUT OF JURIS-  
DICTION ELDERS AND PREVIOUS  
MUTUAL HELP HOMEBUYERS  
**Sponsor: Robert Jones**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**090**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
AMENDING TR 05-085 “GRIEVANCE  
POLICY” AS AMENDED BY TR 06-  
017 OF THE HOUSING DIVISION OF  
THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
**Sponsor: Robert Jones**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**091**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AP-  
PROVING METROPOLITAN LIFE  
INSURANCE COMPANY AS BRO-  
KER OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK)  
NATION 401 (k) PLAN AND AP-  
POINTING RELIANCE TRUST COM-  
PANY AS A TRUSTEE OVER THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION 401  
(k) PLAN **Sponsor: Bill Fife; Co-Spon-**  
**sor: Sam Alexander**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) TR 06-**  
**092**, A TRIBAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
AMENDING THE “EMERGENCY  
REPAIR OF PRIVATELY OWNED  
HOMES POLICY” OF THE HOUSING  
DIVISION OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AS ADOPTED BY  
TR 05-033 AND AMENDED BY TR  
05-169 AND TR 06-054 **Sponsor: Jeff**  
**Fife**

• **FAILED ON THE FLOOR (1-**  
**20-0) TR 06-094**, A TRIBAL RESOLU-  
TION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK)  
NATION CONFIRMING THE RE-  
NOMINATION OF **LARRY L.**  
**OLIVER** TO SERVE AS A SUPREME  
COURT JUSTICE OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
**Sponsor: Sam Alexander**

VOTING NO WERE: **ROGER**  
**BARNETT**, CREEK DISTRICT; **AN-**  
**THONY NOTARO**, MCINTOSH DIS-  
TRICT; **THOMAS MCINTOSH**,  
MCINTOSH DISTRICT; **PETE BEA-**  
**VER**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT; **EDDIE**  
**LAGRONE**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT;  
**TRAVIS SCOTT**, OKFUSKEE DIS-  
TRICT; **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE DIS-  
TRICT; **ROBERT JONES**,  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **KEEPER**  
**JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;  
**JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;  
**BO JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DIS-  
TRICT; **JAMES JENNINGS**, OK-  
MULGEE DISTRICT; **THOMAS**  
**YAHOLA**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT;  
**SHIRLENE ADE**, TUKVPTCE DIS-  
TRICT; **CHERRAH QUIETT**, TULSA  
DISTRICT; **RON CLEGHORN**,  
TULSA DISTRICT; **SAM**  
**ALEXANDER**, TULSA DISTRICT;  
**PAULA WILLITS**, TULSA DISTRICT;  
**JOHNNIE GREENE**, WAGONER DIS-  
TRICT;

• **FAILED ON THE FLOOR (1-**  
**20-0) NCA 06-096**, A LAW OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING AN APPROPRIATION  
TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR  
THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
FARM OPERATION FISCAL YEAR  
2006 OPERATING BUDGET **Sponsor:**  
**Eddie LaGrone (\$169,814.00)**

VOTING NO WERE: **ROGER**  
**BARNETT**, CREEK DISTRICT; **TOM**  
**PICKERING**, MCINTOSH DISTRICT;  
**ANTHONY NOTARO**, MCINTOSH  
DISTRICT; **THOMAS MCINTOSH**,  
MCINTOSH DISTRICT; **PETE BEA-**  
**VER**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT;  
**TRAVIS SCOTT**, OKFUSKEE DIS-

TRICT; **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE DIS-  
TRICT; **BILL FIFE**, OKFUSKEE DIS-  
TRICT; **ROBERT JONES**,  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **KEEPER**  
**JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE  
DISTRICT; **JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE  
DISTRICT; **BO JOHNSON**,  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **JAMES**  
**JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;  
**THOMAS YAHOLA**, TUKVPTCE  
DISTRICT; **SHIRLENE ADE**,  
TUKVPTCE DISTRICT; **CHERRAH**  
**QUIETT**, TULSA DISTRICT; **RON**  
**CLEGHORN**, TULSA DISTRICT;  
**SAM ALEXANDER**, TULSA DIS-  
TRICT; **PAULA WILLITS**, TULSA DIS-  
TRICT; **JOHNNIE GREENE**, WAG-  
ONER DISTRICT;

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**104**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE  
HOLDENVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SYSTEM TO ASSIST WITH THE  
PURCHASE OF A HEATING/COOL-  
ING CHILLER FOR THOMAS EL-  
EMENTARY SCHOOL **Sponsor: Thomas**  
**Yahola; Co-Sponsor: Pete Beaver**  
**(\$18,000.00)**

• **TABLED (16-5-0) NCA 06-105**,  
A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AMENDING  
MCNCATITLE 17, §2-112 TO ALLOW  
FOR RENTAL MONEY FROM  
TRAVEL PLAZA CASINOS TO BE  
DEPOSITED DIRECTLY INTO THE  
TRIBAL TREASURY **Sponsor: Ron**  
**Cleghorn**

VOTING NO WERE: **THO-**  
**MAS MCINTOSH**, MCINTOSH DIS-  
TRICT; **ROBERT JONES**,  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **KEEPER**  
**JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;  
**RON CLEGHORN**, TULSA DIS-  
TRICT; **SAM ALEXANDER**, TULSA  
DISTRICT;

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**114**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING  
AN APPROPRIATION TO THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
HEALTH SYSTEM TO ASSIST WITH  
FUNDING THE DIABETES WALK-  
ING PROGRAM **Sponsor: Tom**  
**Pickering (\$53,536.00)**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**116**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE  
MORRIS VOLUNTEER FIRE DE-  
PARTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE  
OF A RADIO REPEATER SYSTEM  
AND A 200 GALLON PORTABLE  
DUMP TANK **Sponsor: Keeper**  
**Johnson (\$3,500.00)**

REPRESENTATIVE **PAULA**  
**WILLITS** OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF  
CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (20-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**118**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE  
TWIN HILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY  
TO PURCHASE A COMPUTER-TO-  
TELEVISION INTERFACE FOR  
INTERNET MONITORING FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF ALLOWING CITIZENS  
TO VIEW MEETINGS OF THE NA-  
TIONAL COUNCIL **Sponsor: Keeper**  
**Johnson (\$759.00)**

REPRESENTATIVE **PAULA**  
**WILLITS** OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF  
CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (20-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**123**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA  
06-004 TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT  
INCLUDED IN THE FY 2007 COM-  
PREHENSIVE ANNUAL BUDGET  
AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER  
FOR THE ADULT VOCATIONAL  
TRAINING PROGRAM **Sponsor:**  
**Johnnie Greene; Co-Sponsor(s): K.**  
**Johnson; R. Berryhill; D. Harjo; J.**  
**Jennings (\$1,412,000.00)**

REPRESENTATIVE **PAULA**  
**WILLITS** OUT OF SEAT AT TIME OF  
CASTING OF VOTE

• **APPROVED (20-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**125**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION  
TO THE JOHNSON O’MALLEY  
PROGRAM THROUGH THE DIVI-  
SION OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
**Sponsor: Johnnie Green; Co-**  
**Sponsor(s): K. Johnson; R. Berryhill;**  
**J. Jennings; D. Harjo (\$30,420.00)**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**126**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO  
WAINWRIGHT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A PRE-  
SCHOOL PROGRAM **Sponsor: Pete**  
**Beaver; Co-Sponsor: Eddie LaGrone**  
**(\$20,000.00)**

• **FAILED ON FLOOR (10-11-0)**  
**NCA 06-127**, A LAW OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING A SPECIAL APPRO-  
PRIATION TO THE EUFAULA IN-  
DIAN COMMUNITY TO ASSIST  
WITH PROVIDING SPONSORSHIP  
FOR THE EUFAULA INDIAN COM-  
MUNITY POW-WOW AND HOME-  
COMING **Sponsor: Tom Pickering;**  
**Co-Sponsor: Thomas McIntosh**  
**(\$1,530.00)**

VOTING NO WERE: **PETE**  
**BEAVER**, MUSKOGEE DISTRICT;  
**EDDIE LAGRONE**, MUSKOGEE DIS-  
TRICT; **TRAVIS SCOTT**, OKFUSKEE  
DISTRICT; **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE  
DISTRICT; **KEEPER JOHNSON**,  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **SHIRLENE**  
**ADE**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT;  
**CHERRAH QUIETT**, TULSA DIS-  
TRICT; **RONALD CLEGHORN**,  
TULSA DISTRICT; **SAM**  
**ALEXANDER**, TULSA DISTRICT;  
**PAULA WILLITS**, TULSA DISTRICT;  
**JOHNNIE GREEN**, WAGONER DIS-  
TRICT;

REPRESENTATIVE **TRAVIS**  
**SCOTT** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT TIME  
OF CASTING VOTE.

• **APPROVED (20-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**133**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION  
TO THE COMMUNICATIONS DE-  
PARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2006  
BUDGET **Sponsor: Sam Alexander**  
**(\$69,617.00)**

• **APPROVED (21-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**135**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO SALT  
CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAIN WA-  
TER LINE **Sponsor: Shirlene Ade**  
**(\$5,500.00)**

REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS**  
**YAHOLA** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT  
TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

• **APPROVED (20-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**137**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE  
NATIONAL INDIAN COUNCIL ON  
AGING FOR THE CONFERENCE  
HELD SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2006 **Spon-**  
**sor: Roger Barnett (\$177,400.00)**

• **FAILED ON THE FLOOR (10-**  
**11-0) NCA 06-138**, A LAW OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AU-  
THORIZING A SPECIAL APPRO-  
PRIATION TO THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION BASKETBALL  
TEAM TO ASSIST WITH TRAVEL EX-  
PENSES TO THE MICCOSUKEE 2<sup>nd</sup>  
ANNUAL ALL-INDIAN MEN’S  
TOURNAMENT **Sponsor: Robert**  
**Jones (\$1,500.00)**

VOTING NO WERE: **AN-**  
**THONY NOTARO**, MCINTOSH DIS-  
TRICT; **TRAVIS SCOTT**, OKFUSKEE  
DISTRICT; **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE  
DISTRICT; **BILL FIFE**, OKFUSKEE  
DISTRICT; **JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE  
DISTRICT; **JAMES JENNINGS**,  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **THOMAS**  
**YAHOLA**, TUKVPTCE DISTRICT;  
**SHIRLENE ADE**, TUKVPTCE DIS-  
TRICT; **CHERRAH QUIETT**, TULSA  
DISTRICT; **PAULA WILLITS**, TULSA  
DISTRICT; **JOHNNIE GREENE**,  
WAGONER DISTRICT;

REPRESENTATIVE **CHERRAH**  
**QUIETT** WAS EXCUSED. THERE-  
FORE, TWENTY-ONE PRESENT

AND FIVE ABSENT.  
REPRESENTATIVE **TOM**  
**PICKERING** WAS OUT OF SEAT AT  
TIME OF CASTING OF VOTE.

• **APPROVED (17-2-1) NCA 06-**  
**139**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO PE-  
CAN GROVE METHODIST  
CHURCH FOR THE PURCHASE OF  
A 12-PASSENGER VAN **Sponsor:**  
**Shirlene Ade (\$21,158.00)**

VOTING NO WERE: **JEFF**  
**FIFE**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **BO**  
**JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT.  
ABSTENTION WERE: **ROB-**  
**ERT JONES**, OKMULGEE DIS-  
TRICT;

• **APPROVED (20-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**140**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO AS-  
SIST A MUSCOGEE (CREEK) ELDER  
WITH PURCHASING A WHEEL-  
CHAIR LIFT **Sponsor: Shirlene Ade**  
**(\$2,319.00)**

REPRESENTATIVE **THOMAS**  
**YAHOLA** AND **SHIRLENE ADE** WERE  
EXCUSED. THEREFORE, TWENTY  
PRESENT AND SIX ABSENT.

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**141**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE  
SAPULPA, DEWAR, TWIN HILLS,  
WETUMKA, WELEETKA, TULSA  
AND WILSON INDIAN COMMUNI-  
TIES EARMARKING MONIES TO  
COVER THE OPERATING AND  
MAINTENANCE EXPENSES FOR  
THE COMMUNITY VANS **Sponsor:**  
**Sam Alexander; Co-Sponsor(s): R.**  
**Cleghorn; A. Notaro; D. Harjo**  
**(\$56,000.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**142**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION  
TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL A  
SIGN FOR THE CREEK NATION CA-  
SINO-OKEMAH **Sponsor: Travis**  
**Scott; Co-Sponsor: R. Cleghorn; B.**  
**Fife (\$146,725.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**143**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO AS-  
SIST A MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITI-  
ZEN WITH PAYMENT OF MEDICAL  
BILLS DUE TO EXTENUATING CIR-  
CUMSTANCES **Sponsor: Duke Harjo**  
**(\$6,699.020)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**144**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO AS-  
SIST A MUSCOGEE (CREEK) CITI-  
ZEN WITH TRAVEL EXPENSES IN  
ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
NATIONALLY - RECOGNIZED  
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE STUDENT AM-  
BASSADOR CLASS OF 2006 **Sponsor:**  
**Sam Alexander (\$2,000.00)**

• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**146**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION COMMISSION **Spon-**  
**sor: Roger Barnett (\$40,500.00)**

• **APPROVED (16-2-0) NCA 06-**  
**147**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA  
06-042 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO SUP-  
PORT FIVE (5) POLITICAL CANDI-  
DATES WHO WILL ADVOCATE FOR  
THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION IN  
THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA PO-  
LITICAL ARENA) TO REVISE THE  
AMOUNT OF THE CONTRIBU-  
TION TO COMPLY WITH CAM-  
PAIGN FINANCING REGULATIONS  
**Sponsor: Roger Barnett**

VOTING NO WERE: **ROBERT**  
**JONES**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;  
**RON CLEGHORN**, TULSA DISTRICT;  
• **APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-**  
**148**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE  
(CONTINUED - SEE PAGE B7)

Poll Says: Public Supports Indian Gaming

by Knute Knudson, published in Indian Gaming magazine.

If you’re involved in Indian gaming, the odds are you’re familiar with key legislation that could adversely affect Indian gaming. You’re probably aware of Senator McCain’s bill (S 2078) to amend IGRA. You’ve probably been following the progress of Representative Pombo’s bill (HR 4893) to limit gaming on after acquired lands. These legislators chair the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and the House Resources Committee respectively – committees that have primarily responsibility for Indian affairs and issues. You may also be aware of Senator Feinstein’s bill (S 113) to take away the ability of the Lytton Rancheria of California to conduct gaming on their land.

These bills have gotten a lot of attention in the press. They would have major consequences for Indian gaming. But, they are only the tip of the iceberg. An activity as successful and wideranging as Indian gaming can attract a lot of legislative activity, for good and for ill.

Currently there are a number of bills in Congress, other than those noted above, that would have significant impacts on Indian gaming.

- Several pending bills, in addition to Representative Pombo’s bill above, would limit or strip tribes of the ability to conduct gaming on newly acquired lands. Those include Senator Vitter’s bill, S 1260, Representative Rogers’ bills, HR 2353, and HR 4696, and Representative Dent’s bill, HR 3431.
- One measure, HR 4677, sponsored by Representative Rogers, would put in place a two year moratorium on new compacts. The bill would mandate that: “The Secretary of the Interior shall not approve any new Tribal-State compacts for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) until after the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.”
- Senator Voinovich is sponsoring S 1518 which would limit tribes to conducting compacted gaming only in states where such gaming was done for charitable or non-profit purposes. Further, it would subject gaming tribes to follow state rules rather than rules determined pursuant to negotiation.
- Representative Costa’s bill, HR 5125, would amend IGRA to provide

- that the Secretary of the Interior shall not approve a Tribal-State gaming compact under IGRA unless the state involved has a state law providing for a gaming master plan that has been approved by the Secretary.
- Several bills noted above would also mandate that state legislatures, in addition to state’s governors, must have a voice in approving compacts or approving off-reservation gaming, thereby making it more difficult to achieve such approval.
  - Legislation is pending to put limits on Internet gaming that would have an impact on tribal gaming opportunities.
  - In addition to pending legislation, federal regulations are in development that would have a significant impact on Indian gaming regarding Class II gaming definitions, facility licensing, and gaming on after acquired lands.
- Will all of these bills become law? No. Only about 6% of all bills introduced in the last session of Congress became law. Could any of these become law? You bet. About 6% of all bills introduced in the last session of Congress became law - any of these could be in that 6% and the ideas in

these bills could also become law as amendments to other bills. Already this session, there have been attempts to change Indian gaming law through amendments to bills on other subjects.

We’re nearing the end of the two year 109th Session of Congress. It may not seem so as the calendar year is just half over, but Congress does not have many working days left this year, and members will be anxious to spend as much time as possible campaigning in their home districts this fall. That’s important to remember because a lot can happen quickly in the waning days of a Congressional session.

What can you do about all of this legislative activity? Stay informed and get involved. Follow the status of legislation online. The Library of Congress maintains an excellent legislative website at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. Federal regulations come on-line as they are proposed at the Federal Register’s site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>. And, a lot of information can be found at the NIGC website at <http://www.nigc.gov>.

Get involved as a member or associate member in your regional and national gaming association. The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and most regional gaming associations schedule regular opportunities for their members and associates to meet directly with members of Congress and with Congressional staffers. They monitor legislation and will coordinate written communications to Congressional offices as that is warranted.

When your association asks for a letter to Congress on a particular topic and the letter is consistent with your organization’s views, be sure and send that letter. You can bet those who oppose you on legislative issues are making their voices heard. It’s important for you to do the same.

The truth about Indian gaming - that it is well regulated, offers a highly competitive entertainment product to its customers, and supports tribal members in almost countless ways, is not self-evident and legislators need to be educated in order to make informed votes.

By staying informed of all current legislative and regulatory activity related to Indian gaming, by manning the radar so to speak, you will be able to identify the many potential threats to Indian gaming. Once you know the specific threats to Indian gaming, you’ll be in a much better position to help fight those threats.”

Business Briefs

**Wallpapering by Kathy**  
HENRYETTA — If you need wallpaper put up, Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen Kathy Thompson can help.

Kathy has been putting up wallpaper with her business “Wallpapering by Kathy” for over 28 years. She works in Okmulgee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Pittsburg, and Okfuskee counties, and works one week a month in Norman. She works out of her home in

Henryetta.

She stays booked between two to four weeks out, so if you need wallpaper put up, it’s good to contact her early. She can be reached at her home at (918) 652–9529 or on her cell phone at (918) 652–5999.

**Dream Weaver Enterprises**  
OKEMAH — It’s no secret that many Muscogee citizens are quite talented craftsmen, but at

times, especially with our economy struggling, it can be hard for craftsmen to make a good living selling their products.

But Dream Weaver Enterprises can help. Dream Weaver Enterprises, owned and operated by Susan Sharp Doty is an on-line business that lists items for sale on ebay, the world’s largest market place. In this manner, anyone in the world can see, and thus bid and buy the items.

Susan takes pictures of the item for sale and posts them with a description on ebay. All she charges is \$5.00 which the buyer of the item pays as part of the shipping and handling fees, and the ebay costs (usually less than \$2 depending on the price the item sells for).

She will take care of the shipping and all the electronic work so the only thing the craftsman (or anyone who uses her services) has to do is bring her the product and collect his / her money later.

To contact Dream Weaver Enterprises and see about getting your crafts, such as beadwork or silver work, call Susan at (918) 623–2690.

**Business Information**  
OKMULGEE — The Musco-

gee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is accepting information on Muscogee owned and / or operated businesses and Muscogee business owners. If you, or someone you know, owns or operates a business and is a Muscogee Citizen write in and let us know about them and let us let everyone else know about them as well.

Send information to: Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department, C/O: Joshua Slane, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, Ok. 74447 or e-mail the stories to [jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov).

# GOT CASH?

There’s plenty of cash to be won at Creek Nation Muscogee Casino. Located just south of Muskogee at highway 69 and Peak Boulevard. We offer Blackjack, Poker, Bingo and Electronic Games. Open 7 days a week and 24 hours a day.

**CREEK NATION  
Casino  
MUSCOGEE**

3420 W. Peak Boulevard, Muskogee, Ok 74402  
**For information call (918) 683-1825.**  
This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation office of Public Gaming.

HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

*The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health offers a wide range of medical and lifestyle advancements within the boundaries of the Creek Nation for it's citizens. The Division of Health can offer extensive and thorough care to each citizen through the practice of qualified medical professionals and caring staff.*

- Tobacco Prevention Prog.**  
Program Director,  
Cynthia Tainpeah  
Grand Street, Okmulgee  
918-756-6231
- Diabetes Prevention Prog.**  
Diabetes Coordinator,  
Johnnie Brassuell  
1801 East 4th, Okmulgee  
918-756-3334 extension 248
- Behavioral Health Services**  
Clinical Director,  
Dailey Tearl LMFT, LADC  
100 West 7th Street, Okmulgee  
918-758-1910
- Contract Health Services**  
Program Manager, Laura Mackey  
206 South Grand Street, Okmulgee  
918-758-2710
- Okemah Hospital**  
309 North 14th Street, Okemah  
918-623-1424
- Women Infant & Children (WIC)**  
WIC Director, Misty Rains RD/LD  
Hwy 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee  
918-758-2722
- Vocational Rehabilitation Prog.**  
Program Coordinator, Mary Lee  
213 N. 2nd, Okemah  
918-623-1197
- CHR Program**  
Manager, Cyndi Gilks  
700 N. Mission, Okmulgee  
918-756-1941
- Elderly Nutrition Prog.**  
Manager, Steve Wilson  
1801 East 4th, Okmulgee  
918-758-2727
- Care Giver Prog.**  
Teresa Jennings  
1801 East 4th, Okmulgee  
918-758-2727
- Eufaula Health Center**  
800 Forest Ave, Eufaula  
918-689-2547
- Okmulgee Health Center**  
1313 East 20th, Okmulgee  
918-758-1926
- Sapulpa Health Center**  
1125 E. Cleveland, Sapulpa  
918-224-9310
- Koweta Health Facility**  
31870 East Hwy 51, Coweta  
918-279-3200

Ropes Course challenge at Eufaula Dormitory

EUFULA —The Tribal Youth Wellness Program has a newly constructed Challenge Course in Eufaula located on the grounds of the Eufaula Dormitory. The Challenge Course is effective in teaching therapeutic and adventure programming.



The methods are active, fun, and challenging. The Challenge Course has nine low elements. It has one multi-high element which can be converted into three activities.

On August 28-30, 2006 staff from Behavioral Health, Diabetes Program and Eufaula Dorm attended Challenge Course facilitator training provided by Adventure

Resources, Inc. One of the most important aspects of a successful course is the facilitator. The first area is the people skills area including communication, patience, compromise, and trust. The second area includes technical and safety capabilities. The topics covered included challenge course history and philosophy, cooperative games, initiatives, ropes, knots, gear, and hardware, as well as set up and belaying.

The challenge course will be open to tribal use in the spring. For more information please call Thomasine Fife at 758-1930. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division

of Health was awarded a tribal grant to create a Tribal Youth Wellness program to promote and cultivate the physical, emotional, and mental well being of Native youth within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries.

The program will mobilize community involvement and engage moderate to high risk youth and families in a year long prevention activity that will strengthen their ability to circumvent the development and progression of behavior, academic, and emotional difficulties. The service schools are Dustin and Hanna Public Schools as well as the Eufaula Dormitory. Allen-Bowden in Creek

County has also been contacted. The program will provide one after-school session per week for 2-3 hours and one daylong weekend activity per month. The youth will participate in the planning and implementation of 150 hours of community service learning projects. The staff includes Thomasine Fife, Coordinator; Nedra Thompson, Prevention Counselor; Dewayne Tiger, Prevention Counselor; and Diana Banks, Administrative Assistant. For more information please call 918-758-1930.



Circles of Care Program “CHR-Honor and Dignity, A Hope for Our People”

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System, Behavior of Health and Substance Abuse Services are currently participating in the Circles of Care Grant.

The “Circles of Care” is a federally funded program that supports Native American communities that are

planning or developing health service systems for children experiencing emotional or behavioral difficulties.

“To Carry On” project will be done within 10 countries of Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries to plan and create a mental health treatment de-

(SEE PAGE 6 CIRCLES OF CARE)

Koweta clinic updates

COWETA — It has been nearly two months since the opening of the new Koweta Indian Health Facility and things are going well. The addition of this new facility has allowed for the expansion of health services offered within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

With Physical Therapy, Mammography, Ultra Sound, and soon to be Audiology and CT offered at the facility it has and will allow patients within the Nation to obtain these services without having to be sent to an outside facility. Not only does this benefit the patients, it also helps to impact the cost of the Division’s Contract Health Service dollars. While the facility has experienced it share of growing pains in the past two months, the patient load is starting to increase and the processes are beginning to smooth out. The facility currently has three dentist, a hygienist, an optometrist, a physical therapist, two physicians, a pediatrician three days a week, and two mid-level Providers. The facility is also offering Behavioral Health

Services and WIC and CHR services as well. With over 2,000 charts already established, patient registration is a very busy place.

If you wish to seen for services at the facility you must make an appointment then arrive about 30 minutes prior to your appointment and establish a chart. Please remember to bring the necessary information needed; a CDIB card(s) Citizenship cards(s), Birth Certificates for children under 18, Social Security card(s), Drivers License, and all medical insurance cards. By having this information it will help to ensure a smooth registration process. Current facility hours are 7:30am to 5:00pm.

The completion and operation of this facility is a testament to progress within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. With the services offered, this facility has helped to enhance the quality of health care for all Tribal Citizens within this region. If anyone has any questions about facility there are asked to come by or just call 918-279-3200.

“What makes the CHR Conference unique is the fact that the total planning originates through ideas and suggestions of CHR’s throughout the state.” -Cyndi Gilks CHR

LONE WOLF — The Oklahoma Area Association of Community Health Representatives will be holding their 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Educational Conference at Quartz Mountain Conference Center in Lone Wolf, OK. The theme for our conference is “CHR-Honor and Dignity” This year some of the topics to be offered with include: lifelong activities for the youth, setting standards for tobacco control, advocating for children with disabilities, alzheimer’s disease, depression & diabetes, immunization updates, PCC updates, traditional stress relief, cardiac science & AEDs, sexual assault, hepatitis training, nutrition basics, Native Fitness, STD Intervention and Native Writes.

We anticipate a very informative conference this year. What makes the CHR Conference unique is the fact that the total planning originates through ideas and suggestions of CHRs throughout the state. Conference planning takes many months from choosing a location down to choosing the break foods. We are unable to purchase break foods with the money that I.H.S. allocates to us to organize the conference, therefore we required to depend on donations from vendors and registrations to purchase break foods. This year we sent out letters to all the tribes in the Oklahoma Area asking for sponsors. So far we have received sponsorships from the Chickasaw Nation, Seminole Nation, Citizen Band Potawatomi Tribe, Comanche, Wichita, Osage, and Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Missouri. During the conference we will give special recognition to these tribes for showing this appreciation for their CHR Programs. Break tables will be decorated with the tribal seal and if available the tribal flag will be displayed.

Many opportunities will be available to participate in wellness activities. Our very own Scott Robison with the Creek Nation Diabetes Program will be a presenter and will demonstrate several methods for forming exercise groups for the youth. Also, from the Creek Nation is Cynthia Tainpeah who will be presenting on Tobacco Prevention.

Another unique presentation

this year will be in conjunction with the American Cancer Society. We will have a panel of three or four people who are cancer survivors and caregivers for a family member with cancer. Three of these panelists are CHRs. I appreciate these CHRs who are willing to share their experiences with other CHRs.

The feature guest will be Dr. Kham Ung from the Center for Limb Salvage and Wound Management. Dr. Ung is traveling from Sioux City, Iowa to update the CHRs on his techniques for preventing amputations. We encourage anyone who is interested to attend this presentation which will take place on Sept. 19 from 8:30a.m.-10:00a.m. If anyone would like to make the trip to Quartz Mountain to hear Dr. Ung, they will not be required to pay a daily conference fee.

We still have time to receive registrations for this conference and it is open to any and everyone from all areas. You do not have to be a CHR to attend. We encourage anyone who would like to learn more about the CHRs to attend. The conference is very informative and also a time when the CHRs from the Oklahoma Area can unite to share what is happening in their life. These conferences are valuable for sharing ideas and sharing feelings and concerns.

“I have had some very helpful conference committee members this year, Gayle Yargee, Secretary/Treasurer and Sarah Cowett, CHR Generalist has worked many hours with typing and ordering supplies and my thanks goes out to them. It is very difficult to plan a conference and even though I have been involved in conference planning since 1997, it is still very stressful and there is much work to be done but when it comes together during the conference week and old friends meet up and new friends are made, it is all worth it”

If you would like more information on the conference or would like to register contact Cyndi Gilks, or Gayle Yargee at (918)-756-1941 and we will gladly send you a registration form.

Doctors Note, Youth Immunizations by Zack Anderson, MD, MPH

OKMULGEE — It’s back to school time and an excellent opportunity to check our children’s immunizations. There are new and exciting developments in childhood and adolescent immunization. Children immunizations are a parent’s way they can help keep their children free of childhood diseases. Many of these diseases we have not seen for years because of the use of immunization, but as we saw with the mumps out break this past spring in the northern states, and a rise in pertussis (whooping cough) in the United States, we cannot let our guard down. We must continue to immunize our children against these diseases at the recommended times.

Recommended immunization starts soon after birth, with the first Hepatitis B vaccine given before hospital discharge or soon thereafter. If not offered at the hospital where your child was delivered, or if you have a home delivery schedule a visit with your provider or local health department to begin their immunizations. By the time your child is one year of age they should have

Hepatitis B; DTAP (Diphtheria, Tetanus Toxoids and Acellular Pertussis also known as whooping cough) vaccines; three Polio vaccines; or three Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae type b) vaccine depending on the type of vaccine used; one MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccine; one Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine; three Rota Teq (Rotavirus) vaccines; four Pneumococcal vaccines between one to two and a half years they will need one Hepatitis A vaccines.

At four years of age the preschool booster shots are due. DTAP, MMR, Polio.

For the older children, starting at age 11 to 12 years they will need TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria Toxoids and Accellular Pertussis) vaccine if they have not received a Td, then a Td every 10 years. For those adolescents and young adults going into high school and college, or children as young as 11 years of age living in a dormitory setting will need 1 Meningococcal vaccine. The good news is some of these vaccines are now combined so your child will not have to receive as many injections as before.

Such as the Pediarix (Hepatitis B, DTAP, Polio) given at two, four, six months and the Pro Quad (MMR, Varicella) given at one year. The Rotavirus vaccine is a new vaccine given at two, four and six months.

GARDASIL (Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine) is a new vaccine available at some providers and is recommended for girls and women nine through 26 years of age. And let’s not forget the Flu (Influenza) vaccine yearly starting at six months of age. Adults also need a Td (Tetanus Toxoids) vaccine every 10 years. The pneumonia vaccine is recommended one before age 65 and one after age 65 with at least five years between or as recommended by your medical provider.

If you are not sure if you or your child’s immunizations are up to date, then please check with your medical provider. The MCNHS would like to say MVTO to Donna Horton, ARNP (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) at the Okmulgee Indian Health Center for writing this article, and to our citizens for allowing us to share this information with you.

Frequently Asked Questions about Housing Programs

How do I know if I am eligible for any services?

Although each program has its own specific requirements here are some of the basic eligibility requirements.

- At least one family member must be of Indian descent.
- An applicant must be 18 years of age.
- An applicant must be low income living in or wish to live within the Creek Nation boundaries with the exception of the Mortgage Assistance Program which includes the state of Oklahoma.
- An applicant must qualify as a low income family, whose income does not exceed 100% of the national median income, as set by HUD. Income limits are adjusted for family size and updated on an annual basis.
- The applicant will be required to provide all information requested on the application, including all necessary forms and certifications. All information and statements made by the applicant are subject to verification.

How do I apply?

Applicants wishing to participate in the Lease With Option To Purchase Home Ownership Program or the Rehabilitation to Privately Owned Homes Program must submit in person, a complete, signed, and dated written application, including all requested forms and certifications to the Housing Division Admissions Department for processing according to specific program eligibility requirements.

Applicant wishing to participate in the Residential Housing Program (Apartments) must submit a complete, signed and dated written application, including all requested forms and certifications to the apartment manager’s office at the specific complex which you wish to reside.

Applicants wishing to participate in the Mortgage Assistance Program must apply directly to the Mortgage Assistance Program.

All Incomplete applications will be returned.

Can I apply for home ownership if I currently live out of state?

An applicant may apply for Home Ownership or Residential Housing Program services without presently living within the Creek Nation but if determined eligible must be willing to live and accept services within the Creek Nation boundaries.

In the case of the Mortgage Assistance Program the applicant must be willing to purchase and live within the State of Oklahoma.

If I am a tribal member other than Creek but within the Creek boundaries am I still eligible for a home?

You may apply and be eligible; however, preference will be given to Creek citizens with families, regardless of approval date.

According to policy, preferences are given in this order:

- 1) Eligible Creek citizens who are involuntarily displaced by government agencies or natural disaster, including fires,
- 2) 4/4 Creek large families (2 or more in household), the elderly, disabled or handicapped,
- 3) Large Creek families (2 or more in household), the elderly disabled or handicapped ½ or more.
- 4) Large Creek families (2 or more in household), the elderly, disabled or handicapped less than ½
- 5) Single 4/4 Creek citizen, non-elderly, non-disabled or non-handicapped.
- 6) Single less than 4/4 Creek citizen
- 7) Other Indian Tribes

Do I need to own land to be eligible for a new construction home?

No, in most cases new construction houses are built on land acquired by the Creek Nation Housing Division. You may use land that you have readily available but it must meet all environmental requirements.

What is donated property?

Property the eligible applicant owns and donates to the Housing Division for the location on which to build their house.

Is it faster if I have land to build a home on?

If title to the land is free and clear it may speed up the process. Undivided, restricted or unprobated land will often slow the process.

If I want to donate property how much will I need?

Housing recommends at least 2½ acres for rural sites in case the soil will not support a standard septic system in which case an alternative system must be constructed, usually requiring the 2½ acres. Urban sites go by the preferred dimensions of 65’x100’.

Does Housing provide homeowner coverage?

Housing provides structural damage protection for Lease With Option to Purchase homes that are still under lease agreement. This coverage does not include contents of the home. Housing also provides the Community Shield Program for existing homeowners and renters. Community Shield is a joint venture between the Housing Division and Amerind Risk Management to offer low cost coverage for homes and their content.

What is the Alternative Housing Program?

The Alternative Housing Program offers elderly Creek Citizens (62 or older) a replacement home if after being approved for the Rehabilitation of Privately Owned Homes Program had their present home declared unfeasible for repair after inspection. This program provides a replacement home as a grant and does not require repayment unless the house is transferred without notifying the Housing Division. Recipients must have been approved and been on the Rehabilitation of Privately Owned Homes waiting list.

Does Housing have any home loan programs?

Housing has two home loan programs. The Mortgage Assistance Program is designed to help eligible clients with grant assistance for typical mortgage loans costs, such as down payments and closing costs. The recently developed Direct Lending Program provides eligible Lease With Option Program clients a 0% loan for 25 years to construct or purchase their own home according to HUD regulations. Direct Lending clients must meet the eligibility requirements as the Lease with Option to Purchase program.

How do I find out more information about these programs?

Contact the Muscogee Creek Nation Housing Division at 918-756-8504, Toll-free 1-800-259-5050, or go to our Website at [www.creeknationhousing.org](http://www.creeknationhousing.org) or email us at [webmail@creeknationhousing.org](mailto:webmail@creeknationhousing.org). Our offices are located at 2951 N. Wood Dr., Okmulgee, OK.

COMMUNITY SHIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM



Offering protection for Creek Citizens against property damage caused by fire, storm, or other natural disasters.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Housing Division/Authority is now offering property coverage for Creek Citizens who are renting or own their own homes.

The program offers coverage for both homeowners and renters. Coverages includes home protection for homeowners, personal property, personal liability, and emergency living expenses.

To be eligible for the program applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) Citizens, reside within the state of Oklahoma and use the dwelling to be covered as their principle place of residence.

The Housing Division and Amerind Risk Management retain the right to inspect the covered property, and require loss prevention efforts on part of the participants and does not assume responsibility for maintenance of the covered property.

The participant will be solely responsible for filing all claims directly to Amerind with claim payments based on replacement cost up to the coverage limits.

For more information about the program contact

Lenora McPerryman

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Housing  
(918) 756–8504 or 800–259–5050 Ext. 4117



Many Native American families find it difficult becoming a homeowner due to the high out of pocket cost of obtaining a mortgage loan.

The Mortgage Assistance Program is designed to help our Tribal Citizens realize their dream of becoming a homeowner by providing financial assistance needed to acquire a mortgage loan to eligible applicants.

For More Information Contact:

MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
P.O. Box 297  
Okmulgee, Ok 74447  
1-800-259-5050  
918-759-4137

The Mortgage Assistance Program is a program of the

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
DIVISION OF HOUSING

To be eligible for the program, clients must meet the following requirements established by The Mortgage Assistance Program and by the Native American Housing Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

- Be a first time home buyer.
- Live within the state of Oklahoma.
- Not be an existing or former Mutual Help Participant of NAHASDA Homebuyer/Lease with option to Purchase regardless of a Housing Service Area.
- Have an annual family income which does not exceed 80% of the national Median income published by HUD.
- Be 18 years or older.
- Provide all requested information, Citizenship card for preference purposes, Social Security cards, and employment verification for each working family member on the required forms.
- Sign all required forms including the consent for disclosure of information.
- Be able to meet all credit check and financial obligations for loan assistance from an approved and certified financial lender.
- Preference given to Creek Citizens.

Eligible clients may qualify for up to \$25,000.

Realty meeting  
OKMULGEE — The Realty Department would like to advertise the upcoming meeting with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services. Oklahoma Indian Legal Services will be at the Realty offices located inside Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex on Sept 14th starting at 10 a.m. Anyone wanting to meet with a representative can call (918-)732-7713 to schedule an appointment.

Wacoche Reunion  
MUSKOGEE — The Wacoche 20th year reunion was held at the Wacoche Hall on the Bacone



campus, Muskogee, on May 28. Descendents of Benjamin Wacoche, full blood Creek, originally from Eufaula area, founder of this dining hall, converged at this facility commemorating this memorial event. In attendance were about eighty members ranging from new born to 70. The oldest living offspring, uncle Johnson Wacoche, Tahlequah, OK was unable to attend. He was greatly missed.

Watson Reunion  
PIERCE — On Sept 9, at 11:00 a.m. at KOA Camp will be the Watson family reunion. KOA Camp is located east of Henryetta, exit at Pierce Rd,

on the Northside of the highway. The reunion will be a potluck dinner. For more information contact Richard Hicks at (918) 224-8212.  
Wacoche Reunion  
HANNA — On Sept. 9th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Hanna Community Center will be the Wacoche reunion. The reunion will have food, bingo, door prizes — 50/50, and concession. For more information contact J. Berryhill at (918) 756-2318 or (918) 629-9052.

Haskell Alumni Reunion  
ALBUQUERQUE, — On Sept 15 & 16, the 1961 Alumni invites all Haskell Alumni & friends to the reunion in Albuquerque NM, at the Navito lodge. The Lodge is located at 6000 Pan America Freeway. For more information about Navito Lodge call 1-888-628-4861 or 505-798-4300 and ask for the Haskell reunion rate of \$69 + tax. The Saturday evening dinner & dance pre-registration cost of \$35 per person is due by Sept 9. Send check/ MO to Loretta (Burgess) Bradford, 1402 W. 17th St, Claremore OK 74017, or e-mail at [dushkut@cox.net](mailto:dushkut@cox.net) for more information.

Thlopthlocco Reception Dinner  
OKEMAH — On Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. there will be a Thlopthlocco reception dinner. The dinner will be held at the Okemah Indian Center at 1100 S. Woody Guthrie St. Okemah, located inside the MCN Casino. Their will be a short discussion about the status and an open forum discussion about the future. The following issues will also be addressed:

enrollment, constitutional amendments and the 2007 general election. All Thlopthlocco members and family are invited. Dinner will be provided however feel free to bring a special dish.

Beaver - Tiger Reunion  
HANNA — On Oct. 14 starting at 10 a.m. will be the Fourth annual Beaver - Tiger reunion. Those who are related to the Beaver girl's of Hanna or the Tiger family from Tulsa, are asked to attend. The reunion will be at the Leaster Deo "old family" place. The reunion will be a potluck dinner. For more information contact Kay (Beaver) Murray at (918)-657-2275.

Francis Reunion  
EUFAULA — On Sept 23, the descendants of Thomas and Christine Francis will be holding their annual Francis family reunion. The reunion will be held at Artussee Indian Baptist Church in Eufaula. Those attending are asked to bring a favorite covered dish. Fun and games will be available for the young at heart. For more information contact Anna King at (918) 437-5953.

Creek Nation 4-H  
OKMULGEE — The time to purchase livestock show projects for the 2007 spring shows is fast approaching. Creek Nation 4-H has a livestock purchase program to assist youth who are Creek citizens. The program is designed to help Creek youth purchase 4-H show projects such as a pig, sheep, goat, poultry or rabbit. Cattle are not included in the program. A maximum of

\$250.00 will be allowed for each youth to purchase an animal. Assistance will also be give for the purchase of feed. An application can be downloaded from the 4-H webpage at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov) and then click on the 4-H logo. To receive an application in the mail or for questions, contact the Creek Nation 4-H Coordinator at 1-800-482-1979, ext.7628.  
Creek Nation 4-H also has a 4-H scholarship program to help Creek youth attend 4-H activities. These activities can include county camps, state 4-H roundup, fun trips, district camps or any official 4-H activity.

Haskell Alumni Reunion  
OKLAHOMA CITY — on Oct. 27-29, Haskell Alumni Association of Oklahoma invites all Haskell alumni and friends to attend their Annual Reunion . Saturday evening dinner & dance, preregistration cost \$25 per person. For more information contact: Leon Yahola at: P.O. Box 364, Muskogee, OK 74402 or call (918) 616-3757.

Jones Academy Annual Reunion  
HARTSHORE — On Oct. 21 starting at 10 a.m. with the (registration and program), Jones Academy is having it's annual reunion at the school. Lunch and dinner will be in the cafeteria, and the programs will continue from 2-5 p.m. There will be a gospel singing at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium with singers & others coming for this part of the program. Those coming for the gospel singing are welcome to join the alumni's for the evening meal. For more information contact Jimmy Bruner (580) 298-3136, Ted LeFlore (580) 889-7989 or Tully Choate (918) 455-7255.

Termination of the Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) Program

Dear Muscogee Veterans: The EFA Program has been terminated for the main and simple fact of the abysmal compliance rate. Out of 47 checks granted to Muscogee Veterans, and surviving spouses, only 13 returned receipts within the mandatory and agreed upon 30 day time period; only a 29% compliance rate, or a 71% noncompliance rate. It was my embarrassing and reluctant presentation of these facts to our Principal Chief and the National Council that I urged to terminate the EFA Program. Chief Ellis and the National Council were shocked about the results, and heart broken over their reluctance to terminate the EFA Program at my urging. Our National Council attempted to restructure the Program, but again I urged its termination because the inescapable trend would continue with more disastrous noncompearance rates. I will not, and nor should our National Council, disperse thousands and thousands of dollars trying to secure the obvious, appropriate and mandatory compliance. For those 13 (29%) Muscogee Veterans, and surviving spouses, who complied within the 30 day time period – thank you. Ken Davis Director, VASO

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES Division of Health

**Patient Registration Clerk - Okemah**  
High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of a program or training in Medical Office Technology or a related field is preferred. A minimum of one (1) year relevant experience is required.  
**Manager - WIC Program - WIC**  
Bachelor's Degree, at least three (3) years responsible experience in nutrition or closely related field or with a Master's Degree, at least two years experience in nutrition or closely related field or if registered or eligible for registration with the American Diabetic Association (ADA), two years experience. Be registered or eligible for registration with the American Dietetic Association or be qualified as a Senior Public Health Nutritionist under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**Diabetes Educator/Coordinator - Coweta**  
Graduation as a RN (required) or BSN (preferred) curriculum from an accredited professional school of Nursing. One (1) year relevant experience is preferred. Must possess current State of Oklahoma Nursing License. Certification as a Diabetes Educator (CDE) is preferred, however, incumbent is required to obtain CDE status by the end of three (3) years and maintain this certification thereafter.  
**Chief Operating Officer (C.O.O.)**  
Bachelor's Degree in Business or related field is required. A Masters Degree in same area of study is preferred. Two (2) years relevant experience gained through working in a tribal setting.  
**Clinician - Behavioral Health Services**  
A Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology or related field. One (1) year relevant experience in counseling. LPC, LMFT or LCSW licensure/ certifications valid in the State of Oklahoma is preferred. Incumbents who do not possess valid licensures/ certifications as specified must be

actively working toward obtaining this licensure/certification.  
**Medical Technologist - Coweta**  
Bachelors Degree from an accredited college/university that includes completion of courses and clinical laboratory experience that satisfy ASCP eligibility requirements for Medical Technologist certification. Experience necessary to satisfy ASCP eligibility requirements. Valid ASCP certification as an MT is required.  
**Health System Administrator - Eufaula**  
Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Management, or related field of study is required. A Masters Degree (MPH) in a related field is preferred. A minimum of two (2) years of experience in the health care management/administration field is required, preferably in a tribal environment. Valid drivers license is required and applicant must be insurable.  
**Radiology Ultrasound Technician - Coweta**  
Incumbent must have successfully completed an accredited post-high school ultrasound program and

have completed one (1) year of directly related experience. A minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience is required. Current RDMS and RVT certification is required. RCMS certification is preferred.  
**Management Analyst - Lackey Hall**  
Bachelor's Degree in a relevant field is required. A Masters Degree is preferred. Relevant experience preferred, none required.  
**Billing Technician - Lackey Hall**  
Associate Degree in accounting or a related business field is preferred. One (1) year of relevant experience is required with an Associates Degree. Four (4) years of relevant experience may be substituted for the educational requirements stated above.  
**CHR Generalist - McIntosh County**  
High School diploma or GED equivalent is required. One (1) year relevant experience. Incumbent must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.  
**Ultrasound Technician - CNCH**  
Incumbent must have successfully completed an accredited post-high school ultrasound program and have completed one (1) year of di-

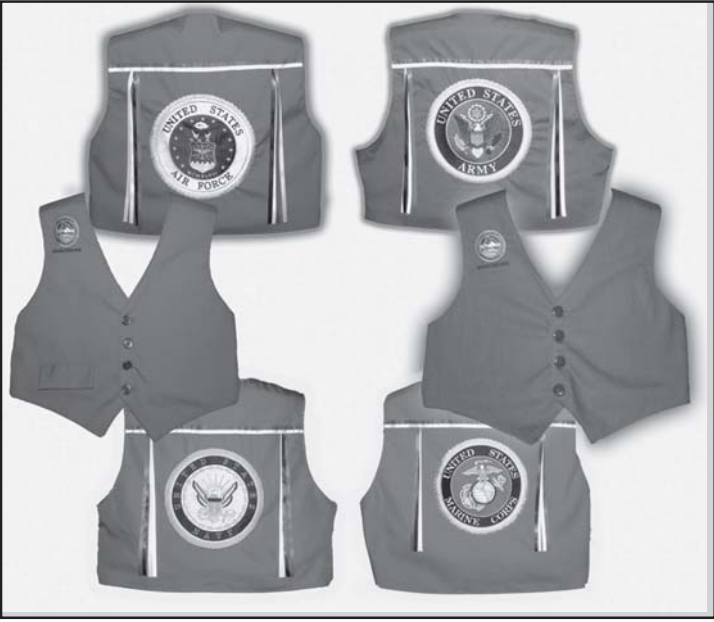
rectly related experience. A minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience is required. Current RDMS and RVT certification is required. RCMS certification is preferred.  
**Van Driver-Twin Hills-ENP (Part-time)**  
High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler's permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver's License and be insurable.  
**I.T. Telecommunications Tech - Coweta**  
Bachelors Degree in telecommunications or related field is preferred. Associates Degree in same or related field as indicated above is required. With a Bachelors Degree, a minimum of one (1) year of relevant experience is preferred. With as Associates Degree, minimum of three (3) years of relevant experience is required. Valid Oklahoma Driver's License is required and must be insurable.  
For more information, visit the website at: [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/health%20administration/ Jobs.htm](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/health%20administration/ Jobs.htm) or call (918) 756-4333 or (800) 782-8291.

Custom made vests available for Veterans

OKMULGEE — The National Council recently approved legislation to appropriate funding to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Veterans Affairs Office for 300 custom-made service branch vests. The legislation was unanimously approved by a vote of 22 in favor and 0 against. "Both Principal Chief Ellis and Second Chief Berryhill enthusiastically endorsed this service," said Davis. "The legislation was sponsored by Representative Anthony Notaro, and cosponsored by Representatives Shirlene Ade, Samuel Alexander, Roger Barnett, Pete Beaver, Larry Bible, Johnnie Greene, Duke Harjo, Bo Johnson, Keeper Johnson, Robert Jones, Tom Pickering, Cherrah Quiett, George Tiger

and Thomas Yahola." According to Veterans Affairs Director Ken Davis, the service branch vests will be constructed to individual measurements and are free of charge. The vests can be worn anywhere at any time as desired. Davis encourages veterans to wear the vests during the annual Veterans Day Ceremony and the forthcoming

grand opening of the new Veterans' building next year. To obtain a branch ser-



vice vest, veterans must provide

a copy of their Military Discharge and must have been discharged with one Honorable, General Under Honorable Conditions, or Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. Measurements will be taken every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Veteran's office by the seamstress. When the vests are complete, each veteran will be contacted and may pickup the vest at the Veteran's office. Only one vest per veteran will be made. For those veterans unable to come to the Veteran's office for mea-

surements, their measurements can be mailed in. Below is a guide on how to measure for the vest: shoulder tip to shoulder tip, collarbone front down to middle of belt loop, nap of the back of neck to the middle of belt loop, measure around waist over the belly button, and chest measurement. For more information or to send measurements, mail to: Ken Davis, VASO, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, P.O. Box 580, Hwy 75 & Loop 56, Okmulgee, OK 74447. Davis can also be reached at (918) 732-7739 or e-mail: [kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:kendavis@muscogeenation-nsn.gov). Notice: measurements will be taken every Wednesday until Dec 6.

Challenge Bowl to award the 1st Annual Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship

OKMULGEE— The Challenge Bowl committee would like to announce that the “Belvin Hill Memorial Scholarship” has been established to honor the memory of one of the founding committee members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Challenge Bowl. Belvin has been involved with the Challenge Bowl since the beginning of the competition as the chair of the food committee. He already made plans for the 2007 competition and was looking forward to see all the students again this year. Many of the students will remember his smiling face behind the food distribution table and always making sure that they enjoyed his food selections.

Belvin over the past years has worked on the Challenge Bowl; question committee, language committee, compiled the study guides, compiled the officials binders, ordered the student T-shirts, bags and was one of the strongest school team recruiters for the Challenge Bowl competition.

The Challenge Bowl committee has established a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who is a participant of the 2007 Challenge Bowl competition. Guidelines and the application can be found on the MCN website under the Challenge Bowl information. We have also received several calls from schools and private individuals who would like to contribute towards this scholarship in memory of Belvin. You may do so, in care of the JOM Program “Belvin Hill scholarship” at Creek Nation. You may contact the JOM office at (918) 732-7843 for more information.

**Scholarship Criteria**

1. Must be a Senior of any tribe who is a Challenge Bowl team member and eligible to compete in the Challenge Bowl.
2. Must have a copy of their CDIB or Tribal Citizenship card.
3. Must submit a completed application.
4. Must compete in the 2007 Challenge Bowl and be present at the award ceremony.
5. Must submit a one-page typed essay on the importance of the MCN Challenge Bowl and what affect their participation has had on their personal life and school performance.
6. Must submit one letter of recommendation. (School, church, community, IEC)
7. Must submit a photograph (photo will not be returned).
8. Must submit a signed “Statement on Privacy” form with the application.
10. Submit the scholarship application no later than October 10, 2006
11. If selected, the student must, in the Spring of the graduating year, submit a copy of their acceptance and registration in their college showing full time enrollment.

Applications are available at muscogeenation-nsn.gov

2007  
MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

CHALLENGE  
B O W L

SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL



ELEMENTARY COMPETITION  
NOVEMBER 1, 2006

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPETITION  
NOVEMBER 15, 2006

HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION  
NOVEMBER 16, 2006

Held at the First Baptist Church  
311 W 5th, Okmulgee OK 74447

TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
OCTOBER 4, 2006

Fax Entry Form to Melinda Taylor  
at 918 - 732-7728

Contact Jeri Brandon at 918 - 732-7843  
or David Gash at 918 - 732-7841

If you would like to serve as a volunteer  
Contact Christie Baldrige at 918 - 759-9967

Preparing your child for college

By Robert Bible

As parents, we want our children to have more than we had when we were growing up. In today’s economy, education is the most important step on the road to economic success. Similarly, we dream that our children will grow up to be doctors, lawyers, corporate leaders, bank presidents, and even the President of the United States. However, from personal experience, once your child matriculates to college you just want them to learn the discipline of studying, developing the social skills they might have missed during their formative years, and getting that first full-time job so that you will no longer have to “fork over gas money.”

As a teacher, coach, counselor, administrator and now superintendent, I have personally witnessed students function in negative and positive situations. Somehow, the majority of the students survive many situations with the support of someone who believed in them. Throughout the years, I have always supported all students and will continue to do so; however, as a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, I will always promote and emphasize to our Muscogee Creek students the need to be involved in academic and extracurricular activities. There are

many opportunities for our Muscogee Creek students to attend college and to get the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive Muscogee Creek citizens. It is extremely important that our Muscogee Creek students motivate and prepare themselves to compete with all students and to be proud of their Muscogee Creek heritage.

Today, with the support of Principal Chief A.D. Ellis, the National Council, OSU-Okmulgee, and many others, Muscogee Creek students will have another great opportunity to obtain a college education with the establishment of the College of the Muscogee Nation. What a tremendous and historic step our Muscogee (Creek) Nation has taken to make education a top priority for our Muscogee Creek students and citizens! This initial step in higher education will produce college graduates who will lead our great Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

So how do we prepare our students for college? Preparing for college begins at home where children develop life-long habits and values. Parents should require their children take challenging academic courses, suggest they get involved in extracurricular activities, provide them with the confidence to compete and continuously support their children by being

actively involved in their education. Parents should also make frequent appointments with their high school counselors, take their students on tours of prospective colleges, and fill out financial aid packets. Students should also be encouraged to take the ACT and SAT tests as early as possible in their high school careers. Most importantly, allow your student the opportunity to experience both success and failure!

Did I mention that you might want to give them a little extra cash for those late night study sessions? Above all, we know where they will be studying, and it will save them a call home. So be proud of your children and prepare them early for college; maybe it will only be four years to get on that road to success.

Gates Scholarship applicants sought to answer survey

By Okmulgee Daily Times

**To all Muscogee (Creek) Families of Gates Scholars and Scholarship Applicants**

If you or someone you know applied for or received a Gates Scholarship during 2001 or 2002 as a freshman in college, we need your help the Gates Millennium Scholars program offers minority students financial assistance with their educational needs. In return, the Gates Foundation asks that the students (recipients and non recipients of the scholarship) complete an online or phone research survey. By completing these surveys, the students can ensure that future generations will maintain this same financial opportunity.

Also, the students who applied for and did not receive the scholarship will get a \$25 check upon completion of the survey! The survey is conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago on behalf of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

You may call NORC at 1-866-521-9903 for your PIN number and Password for the on-line survey or information on how to complete the survey over the phone. Contact person: Dr. Joe L. Conner or Dr. Carol N. Conner at Paradox Consulting, 100 North 2nd Street, Fairfax, OK 74637. (918) 642-3162 or email paradox@valomet.com

Tulsa County Library upcoming events for Native American Students

College Fair for American Indian Students Saturday, Oct. 14 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Central Library, second floor and the Computer Training Room • Fourth Street and Denver Avenue • (918) 596-7977

This open house features representatives from area colleges, information from tribal higher-education offices, and library resources on colleges and financial aid. In addition to making contacts, students and their parents will have an opportunity to learn about library resources related to college funding.

• Visit the Computer Training Room any time throughout the fair and find out about online resources to help in your

Search for the right college and the money to pay for that education.

Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, Tulsa City-County Library’s American Indian Resource Center, Readers’ Library and Research Center.

College Financial aid: begin the Search to Fund Your Future

Thursday, Nov. 2 • 7-8:30 p.m. Central Library, Aaronson Auditorium • Fourth Street and Denver Avenue • (918) 596-7977

It’s never too early to start planning how you will finance your college education. Join college financial-aid specialists, an OHLAP representative, a high-school counselor, investment specialist and Tulsa City-County Library’s government documents librarian for information about college funding. This program is geared toward primary and secondary students and their parents and caregivers. Sponsored by the Tulsa City-County Library Research Center.

Gates Millennium Scholars Program for American Indian Students

Saturdays, Nov. 4, 18 • 10 a.m.-noon Maxwell Park Library • 1313 N. Canton • (918) 669-6055

The Gates Millennium scholarship program is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At this workshop American Indian high-school juniors and seniors and their parents will learn about the scholarship, application requirements and the registration process. Applicants must have a minimum 3.3 GPA at the time of application and a household income of less than \$80,000. Preregistration is required and seating is limited. Owen Hawzipta, Owasso Public Schools Indian Education, and Iwannah Bonnaha, Tulsa Public Schools Indian Pupil Education Program, will lead the workshop. Sponsored by the Charles W. and Pauline K. Flint Foundation.

College Financial aid: Continue the Search to Fund Your Future

Thursday, Nov. 9 • 7-8:30 p.m. Central Library, Aaronson Auditorium • Fourth Street and Denver Avenue • (918) 596-7977

It’s never too late to pursue a college education, but the financial aspect can be daunting. If you’re an adult who is interested in starting or returning to college this program is for you! Learn about resources for financing your education from the experts. Sponsored by the Tulsa City-County Library Readers’ Library and Research Center.

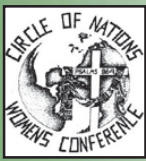
Free and open to the public • If you are hearing-impaired and need a qualified interpreter, please call the library 48 hours in advance of the program. www.tulsalibrary.org • Printed through the Public Relations Office 2006.

Dartmouth College Announcement

In recognizing that diversity is a cornerstone of academic excellence, Dartmouth College invites a distinguished group of college-bound Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian high school seniors from around the country each fall to experience our academic community this summer. The Fly-In event will take place from Thursday, October 19 to Sunday, October 22, 2006. Students are selected for participation on the basis of academic achievement, personal character, and potential for future excellence. We anticipate that approximately 35 students will participate in our fall Fly-In program. Dartmouth will provide round-trip transportation assistance along with complimentary meals and on-campus housing to participants for the duration of their stay. Students will have the opportunity to visit classes, meet current undergraduate students, interact with faculty and administrators, and increase their familiarity with Dartmouth’s resources and many opportunities for enrichment. Many past participants found the Fly-In to be an invaluable aid to their college planning.

The application submission deadline is Friday, September 8, 2006. Please have students mail or the completed application, including a short essay response and a copy of their secondary school transcript (with school profile). Application materials may be sent to us by fax at (603) 646-1216. Candidates selected for participation will be notified the week of September 18. As demand for this program often exceeds our program capacity, students who are not selected should not consider our decision as an indicator of their undergraduate admission prospects at Dartmouth. The college offers a similar program in the spring for all admitted students who have not previously visited the campus.

We truly hope that you will encourage promising students to pursue this potential campus visit opportunity. If you have further questions, please call us at 1-800-860-1294, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m eastern time. We look forward to your next contact and wish you the best for and enjoyable summer.



2006 Circle of Nations Christian Women's Conference.



Artist is Ventriloquist and Puppeteer.



NABI Tournament: Creek citizen Randy July pitches in for the Oklahoma squad.



Native American History Series: Muscogee Confederacy

by Patrick E. Moore (Continued from August 06 MNN)

He would only follow those laws that pleased him or that would further his own financial and political goals. He was drawn to the northern part of the Muscogee Confederacy by the prospects of its agriculture wealth. Jackson and his brother-in-law, John Coffee, used Jackson's influence in Washington, D.C. to buy 16,000 acres of Confederacy land for \$4.75 an acre when the going rate then was \$78.00 per acre. Jackson became the one individual most responsible for the removal of the Confederacy and other southeastern tribes from their eastern homeland to the Indian Territory. He was elected President of the United States on his second attempt in 1828 and announced in his inaugural address he would see that the United States would remove all the southern tribes to Indian Territory.

Through politics and by other devices, he amassed a considerable fortune, a mansion, The Hermitage, two large plantations, thousands of acres of land, a very valuable stable of race horses, large herds of cattle and hundreds of slaves. He rewarded everyone in his family, his friends and political supporters with the spoils of his exploitation and plundering of the southeastern tribes.

He and John Coffee took part in the battle of Horseshoe Bend the most costly and bloody battle ever fought between native Americans and an invading army. One thousand Confederacy "Red Stick" soldiers from the towns of Nuyaka, Okfuscooche, Hillabee, and Eufaula led by Menawa armed with only 200 rifles defended their homeland against one thousand five hundred of Jackson's well-armed Tennessee Militia, at least five hundred Cherokee volunteers and over one hundred Muscogee "White Stick" soldiers. This definitive battle began in the mid morning hours of March 27, 1814 and by sunset over eight hundred "Red Stick" soldiers had been killed.

The Battle of Tohopeka counted the largest number of combat casualties ever sustained in a battle on the North American continent between United States led soldiers and Native American warriors. The result was the forced surrender by the Muscogee Nation of twenty three million acres of land in Alabama and Georgia. Jackson was a master of deception for often after doing battle with a Muscogee Confederacy Mekko such as Menawa or Paddy Carr he would persuade them with his usual promises that he would allow them to remain in their homeland in the east if they would only raise an army, go to Florida and fight with the United States in the Seminole War.

Jackson had more diplomatic problems with the Upper Creeks after Horseshoe Bend.

Tukvptce, an Upper Creek, tribal town was one of the original Muscogee Confederacy towns and a member of the Confederacy long before the first Spanish explorers entered Confederacy lands in 1539. It was at Tukvptce, the Confederacy's war Capitol, in the fall of 1811, that Shawnee Prophet Tecumseh delivered his warning speech to the Confederacy National Council. Tecumseh said, "the colonists will turn your beautiful forests into fields, muddy the clear

streams and make you slaves." A teenage Opothle Yahola was among the five thousand Confederacy members in attendance at this meeting.

Opothle Yahola became a trusted advisor to Big Warrior, the Mekko of all Upper Confederacy towns. In May of 1824 Federal Commissioners met at Broken Arrow to negotiate a new treaty whereby the Confederacy would surrender more land and agree to move to Indian Territory. At this meeting Big Warrior told the Commissioners, "I will not take a houseful of money for the land."

Opothle Yahola was a brilliant leader of the young warriors of the Upper Towns and a Tukvptce Mekko. Later in 1824 he was one of the Confederacy Mekkos present at Pole Cat Springs when a law was enacted by the National Council to prohibit any further land sales, under penalty of death. He was also present at Indian Springs in February 1825 when a draft treaty containing land cessions was presented by the Federal Commissioners. He personally warned William McIntosh and the Commissioners of McIntosh's fate should McIntosh sign the treaty. He is quoted as saying to the Federal Commissioners "We met you at Broken Arrow, and told you we had no land to sell. We have met you here upon very short notice, and I do not think the Mekkos present have any authority to treat. General McIntosh knows that . . . what is not done in public council is not binding. Can the council be public if all the Mekkos have not had notice, and many of them are absent? I am, therefore under the necessity of repeating what I told you at Broken Arrow, that we have no lands to sell." When he concluded his long and bitter speech he spun around and pointed at General McIntosh. "I have told you your fate if you sign that paper. I once more say, beware!"

The Confederacy Council met after William McIntosh and others signed the Indian Springs Treaty. There was long debate by the legislative body of the Muscogee Confederacy before enactment of earth shaking legislation. The Muscogee Confederacy National Council issued a death warrant and directed the execution of William McIntosh for his signing of a treaty containing land cessions. Never before nor since has a legislative body in this hemisphere issued a death warrant against an individual.

Menawa was assigned the task of executing McIntosh's death warrant. He immediately left for the McIntosh plantation and trading post with one hundred lawmenders.

The state of Georgia faked alarm, Georgia was the beneficiary of the land cession, and request federal protection from the murderous Creek Indians. The Muscogee Confederacy replied that Georgia citizens had nothing to fear, the Muscogee Confederacy was merely enforcing its own laws against its own citizens.

Opothle Yahola's portrait was painted in Washington, D.C. by Charles Bird King, during the winter of 1826, while he was at the Capitol with the Confederacy delegation protesting the illegal Treaty of Indian Springs. Colonel McKenney described him as cool, cautious, and sagacious, with a tact which would have

done credit to a more refined diplomatist.

Opothle Yahola became the most powerful leader in the Confederacy by 1827. He was against removal to Indian Territory at first but later could see that it was inevitable.

On May 28, 1830, Andrew Jackson signed into law The Removal Act. This act of the U.S. Congress provided for the removal of Indians residing in any of the states to lands west of the Mississippi River. The following are direct quotations from The Removal Act: Section III "that the United States will forever secure and guarantee to them, and their heirs or successors, the country so exchanged with them" Section VI "it shall be lawful for the President to cause such tribe or nation to be protected, at their new residence, against all interruption or disturbance . . . from any other person or persons whatever" and Section VII "That nothing in this act contained shall be construed as authorizing or directing the violation of any existing treaty between the United States and any of the Indian tribes."

Jackson wrote to the tribes that "he could be their friend only if they removed beyond the Mississippi where they could have a land of their own, which they shall possess as long as Grass grows or water runs . . . and I never speak with forked tongue."

Ten thousand (45% of the total membership) Muscogee Confederacy citizens perished during the removal process.

In 1835 he readied himself and the Tukvptces for the journey west and finally arrived at the confluence of the North and South Canadian rivers in 1836. He had great influence in tribal affairs after his arrival in Indian Territory and was the leader of the Muscogees who remained loyal to the United States during the Civil War. He personally sent a letter to President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 requesting assistance and protection by the United States Army from this new nation in the south (The Confederate States of America) reminding President Lincoln that The United States had promised protect the Muscogee Nation, its people and lands in Indian Territory forever.

After hostilities ceased between North and South, the Muscogee Nation received Washington's reply in the form of another administrative effort by to take fee simple Muscogee land in Indian Territory because some Muscogees sided with the Confederate States. Opothle Yahola died in Kansas, after reportedly being forced to sign a contract with an attorney, recommended by the Federal Government, who was to represent the Muscogee Nation in its negotiations to save their remaining land in Indian Territory from further exploit by the Federal Government and outsiders.

Was it fair to allow the federal government to recommend an attorney to represent the Muscogee Nation in negotiations with the federal government? Was this an exercise of the federal governments trust responsibility? Bureau of Indian Affairs approval of Indian Tribal attorneys continued into the next century and only recently was removed from the Code of Federal Regulations.

Relatives and trusted body guards disputed authenticity of the signature on this attorney contract for Opothle Yahola was always honest and true to his people and should be emulated today a real hero and leader of the old Muscogee Confederacy.

Coming and Going in Indian Country

by Joy Harjo

ALBUQUERQUE—Hensci, Early August I was honored to tag along with the historic: "Traveling California Muscogee Creek Show," (my title) a production of the California Muscogee Creek Association, headed up by Eli Grayson. Officials of the nation in Oklahoma and heads and staff from various tribal agencies visited their western relatives in the LA and Bay areas. The first meeting took place on a Saturday in El Segundo in a park near LAX. Several hundred citizens who had left (or their parents or grandparents had left) Oklahoma for relocation, adventure, and/or for opportunity showed up for the event of speakers, tables with information, food and sharing. I was impressed by the diversity of citizens and considered the gifts of enrichment from each. Citizens included artists, singers, filmmakers, actors, entrepreneurs, professors, storytellers, chefs and so many others. I saw relatives I hadn't seen in awhile, like Victoria Bomberly who is now an assistant professor at the University of CA, Riverside. She raised three sons as a widow, made it through Stanford and now travels often to Bolivia for her studies. And I met many citizens for the first time, some who had come for miles to be at the gathering. The crowd enjoyed the presentations and stories of citizens from Oklahoma, like Joyce Bear, Pete Coser and Norma Marshall. I enjoyed getting to know everyone better as we worked and visited alongside each other. Despite any differences, everyone was there because of connection to the Muscogee Nation.

Very, very early the next morning we made a caravan from Los Angeles to Stockton, for the second day of presentations. As we drove the several hours north I thought of the journeys people had made from home to get here, and how no matter far away from home we travel, home always lives within us. It's the root of your being and when it's stirred up by such happenings as this you feel a little sad and happy, all at once. These meetings were a bit of a turn on the notion. Instead of going home, home came to California.

Those who have stayed and taken care of the home fires tend to be suspicious of those who left. Those who left can be a little insecure about where and how to fit. Despite this, connections were made. I won't forget Joseph Jacobs from the Holdenville area who lives in Stockton. We figured out how we are probably related on the grid of genealogy. Nor do I think any of us will forget how our spirits opened with each laugh, with each handshake or hug. We had a chance to get caught up on all the stories, the highs and lows.

The Denny's off the interstate south of Stockton and before nightfall will never be the same after our stop. We solved everything with a little nourishment and good company. And many of us feel even more resolute to help contribute to the quality of life both here and there.

I have to mention Eli Grayson. Whether or not you agree with his unforgiving vision, his fierce uncovering of truth, eventually you just have to admire someone who is exactly who they say they are, and will tell you exactly what they mean. He works tirelessly on behalf of Creek citizens, especially those west of Oklahoma, without pay and without staff. He searched out every citizen in California. He called them and asked each one of them what he could do for them, and then he did something. I know because that's how I met him when I was out there for a job. He knows genealogy like the old people. He studies the issues, history and looks into the future to see how we can all fit together. He makes sofkey and ribs for the meetings. He's one of the people who will insure that we get from here to there with some kind of grace.

By the way, there was some kind of murmuring out there in the nation about Grayson calling himself "mekko" and some other nonsense. Track down the source and you'll find someone telling stories to appear high and mighty. Or you'll discover somebody trying to distract from their own mess. We've become easily distractible these days. Mvto Eli.

Finally, one of our citizens, Stacy Pratt, Phyllis Fife's daughter is now living in northern Italy. She reports that yes, there are Creeks no matter where you go. She says: "We visited the Vatican in April, and after we left, I was reading about parts that we had not visited. It turns out that in the missionary section, there are some Creek items!...I haven't been able to go see them, but plan to visit again this fall... Well, my husband just finished making hominy, so I will end this letter and go eat it. We might be in the land of famously good Italian food, but sometimes, a Creek girl just has to have hominy." Stacy returns to the U.S. in January to attend the University of Southern Mississippi where she is working on her doctorate in creative writing. We're all proud of her.

This morning as we head into fall I feel like going fishing with Louis Littlecoon Oliver, beloved Mvskoke poet who we miss. He'd know what to say about all this.

We'll see you next month. Until then you can reach me via e-mail: nativesax@yahoo.com.



Harjo

Creek Council Oak Tree Ceremony

TULSA—This year's Council Oak Ceremony will be held on October 21, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Council Oak Park located at 18th & Cheyenne. All Ceremonial Ground members and tribal citizens are welcome to attend the ceremony.

For more information, contact Cherrah Quiett at (918) 520-9161 or Ruth Bible at (918) 732-7642.

First Americans, First Oklahomans; Indian Peoples

BROKEN ARROW — The Broken Arrow Historical Society is sponsoring a live presentation on Native American folklore and music on September 28 at the Stinchcomb Mansion and Victorian Gardens located at 1004 S. Main. For more information, call (918) 269-0752.

ATTENTION: MVSKOKE ELDERS



**FROM:** Jackson Barnett  
Creek Nation Senior Service Manager

**SUBJECT:** Activities Planned or Being Planned in the Upcoming Weeks Include:

1. A Forum on Social Security in the Mound Building, September 1st, 2006 beginning at 10:30 A.M. Lunch provided.
2. Trip to Oklahoma City for Elders Conference on September 6th, 7th and 8th, 2006.
3. Trip planned to Macon, Georgia, our motherland, for the annual American Indian Celebration, September 13th thru 18th. Names being taken now for possible selection.
4. Possible trip to Moundville Archaeological Park, Alabama, the first week in October
5. Possible trip to Cahokia Mounds, St. Louis, Missouri
6. Possible trip to Carlsbad Caverns, southern New Mexico
7. A forum on diabetes presented by our own Diabetes Program
8. A forum on Medicaid fraud
9. A forum on "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" presented by the University of Tulsa Law School
10. A Senior Olympics for those 50 and over
11. A story telling gathering

NICOA hosts 2nd Annual American Indian/Alaska Native Long Term Care Conference 2006 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Honoring our Elders at the Second Annual American Indian and Alaska Native Long Term Care Conference 2006, scheduled for September 18 & 19, 2006.

"Native Americans have strong family ties, traditions, and a desire for independence. The rural environments where many Native Americans live are not conducive for traditional home health care models." (C. Jameson, 2006 Abstract)

This conference highlights best practices in long term care for American Indians and Alaska Natives, so come and learn from the programs that are making long term care work in urban and reservation AI/AN communities. Find out how to develop comprehensive services for Elders and the Disabled; how to get re-

sources and develop partnership networks.

LTC Conference offers an opportunity to: find new partnerships; get new ideas; learn about Aging services and how to make it accessible for your Elders; start a long term care program in your community; get family members together to plan for the well being and safety of their Elders; learn about how not to forget about the caregivers who also need support in caring for their loved ones; and learn about health promotions for Elders so that they stay independent and continue to live in their own communities.

The founding philosophy of the American Indian and Alaska Native Long Term Care Conference is "To honor our Elders, by learning from each other" in addressing issues and successfully make long term care a reality in Indian Country. For more conference information, please visit <http://www.aianlongtermcare.org/>. Thank you.

New EEOC Publication Addresses Employment Rights of People with Hearing Loss

Latest Q&A Fact Sheet Coincides with Anniversary of Landmark Disabilities Act

WASHINGTON, DC Cari M. Dominguez, Chair of the U.S. Equal Employment opportunity Commission (EEOC), today announced the issuance of a new question-and-answer (Q&A) fact sheet on the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to job applicants and employees who are deaf or who have hearing impairments. The new publication, the sixth in a series of Q&A documents about specific disabilities in the workplace, is available online at <http://www.eeoc.gov/facts/deafness.html>.

"One goal of this fact sheet is to counter the myth that individuals with some level of hearing loss are generally less competent, less productive, or would require more attention and supervision than their peers who do not have hearing loss," said Chair Dominguez, who announced the issuance of the new document at a town hall meeting sponsored by the National Council on Disability in observance of the 16th anniversary of the ADA.

She added: "As our nation observes the anniversary of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, we should be mindful that

disability does not mean inability, and that every individual deserves the freedom to compete on a fair and level playing field. People with disabilities represent a vast pool of untapped talent for employers."

The new Q&A publication includes many real-life examples that illustrate the kinds of jobs that people with hearing loss successfully perform and the wide range of accommodations available. Topics addressed in the document include:

- \* When a hearing loss is a disability under the ADA;
- \* When an employer may ask an applicant or employee about a hearing impairment and what it should do if an applicant voluntarily discloses the impairment;
- \* What type of reasonable accommodation an applicant or employee with a hearing disability may need; and
- \* What an employer should do if it has safety concerns about an applicant or employee with a hearing impairment.

According to published reports, between 2000 and 2004, estimates of the number of people in the United States with a self-described "hearing difficulty" ranged from 28.6 million to 31.5 million. A "hearing difficulty" can refer to the effects of many different hearing impairments of varying degrees. The number of individuals with hearing difficulty is expected to rise rapidly by the

year 2010 when the baby-boomer generation reaches age 65. As compared to other age groups, the percentage of individuals with hearing difficulty is greatest among those individuals age 65 and above.

EEOC's latest ADA publication helps to advance the goals of the New Freedom Initiative, President George W. Bush's comprehensive strategy for the full integration of people with disabilities into all aspects of American life. The New Freedom Initiative seeks to promote greater access to technology, education, employment opportunities, and community life for people with disabilities. An important part of the New Freedom Initiative strategy for increasing employment opportunities involves providing employers with technical assistance on the ADA.

EEOC enforces Title I of the ADA, which prohibits employment discrimination against people with disabilities in the private sector and state and local governments, and the Rehabilitation Act's prohibitions against disability discrimination in the federal government. In addition, the EEOC enforces other federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, and age. Further information about the EEOC is available on its website at <http://www.eeoc.gov>.

Traveling with Diabetes Update

The Secretary of Homeland Security has elevated the Homeland Security Advisory System Threat Condition to Severe, or Red, for all commercial flights from the United Kingdom to the United States, and to High, or Orange, for all other international flights and all domestic commercial aviation. Currently, no liquids or gels of any kind will be permitted in carry-on baggage. Items must be in checked baggage. For more information, visit this link: <http://www.tsa.gov/press/happenings/threat-change.shtm>.

Special information for people with diabetes and other conditions regarding traveling with required medication and supplies is available from the American Diabetes Association and the Transportation Security Administration. You may wish to share this information with organizations and individuals who interact with people with diabetes.

American Diabetes Association's "Traveling with Diabetes

Supplies" page:[http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy-and-legal-resources/discrimination/public\\_accommodation/travel.jsp](http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy-and-legal-resources/discrimination/public_accommodation/travel.jsp)

Information from the Transportation Security Administration regarding:

**Traveling with Diabetes**  
[http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial\\_1370.shtm#7](http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1370.shtm#7)

**Travelers with Disabilities and Medical Conditions**  
[http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial\\_1986.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1986.shtm)

**Medications**  
[http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial\\_1059.shtm](http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/specialneeds/editorial_1059.shtm)

**Notes:**

\* The following links are current as of August 11, 2006. If you are unable to access a link, please visit the main pages for the American Diabetes Association ([www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org)) and the Transportation Security Administration ([www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)). You may wish to locate

updates by searching for information on the Transportation Security Administration's main page under the term "diabetes."

\* This is the first time the Diabetes Network E-News has been used to communicate an emergent issue. Please provide us with feedback about the use of the E-News in this manner.

For questions about the Washington State Diabetes Network, the Washington State Diabetes Plan or the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, contact Sara Eve Sarliker, Health Promotion Specialist, at [sara.sarliker@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sara.sarliker@doh.wa.gov) or call 360-236-3963. To view the Washington State Diabetes Plan, use this link: [http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/diabetes/diabetes\\_plan.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/diabetes/diabetes_plan.htm)

To be added to their distribution list, email [sara.sarliker@doh.wa.gov](mailto:sara.sarliker@doh.wa.gov). To help grow the Washington State Diabetes Network, consider forwarding this email to your diabetes partners.

Mvskoke Seniors for Cultural Preservation and Promotion

OKMULGEE — Since June 2006, the Mvskoke Seniors for Cultural Preservation and Promotion has been meeting once a month in Okmulgee to talk about, share and learn the old ways of the Mvskoke people which are in danger of being lost.

This informal group sent letters to Mvskoke (Creek) Nation community centers to invite interested seniors to attend these sessions. Participants have come from Okemah, Sapulpa and other areas and at the first meeting planned what they want to focus on, such as food preparation, history, stories, etc. They want to preserve and promote the culture by learning and providing information to other Mvskoke people.

One afternoon the group made sour cornbread and each person left with a recipe written in English that Lillian Thomas carefully translated into Mvsvoke.

A current topic is basket making



and the group will learn how river cane, hickory or other materials are prepared to weave into baskets and dyed from dyes made of berries.

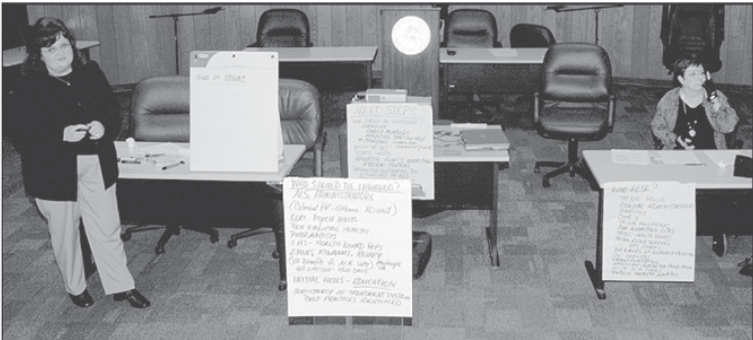
Guest artists or speakers are brought in and the group will take their time since participants range from those who have never made a basket to skilled artisans who have won awards in art competitions. Besides learning and working on a project, the group enjoys the fellowship with each other during the meetings.

Though the group has a plan for topics, they sometimes have to take detours. They have taken on

a job to make cornhusk dolls for centerpieces for a Breast Cancer Survivors Luncheon to be held in Okmulgee in October. The day they learned to make the dolls, a children's summer program was on site so group members took time to teach the children how to make cornhusk dolls. The children had an opportunity to make a fun craft as well as an opportunity to interact with the seniors.

The group meets the first or second Tuesday of the month and reminders are sent out to participants about the topics and any changes in schedule.

For information about the Mvskoke Seniors for Cultural Preservation and Promotion, contact Esther Gee at (918) 758-0970, Bertha Taylor at (918) 652-8189, or Lillian Thomas at (918) 756-2403.



Mrs. Ruth Drew and Mary Ann Duncan of the Oklahoma/Arkansas Alzheimer's Association provide presentation during the Alzheimer meeting.

Alzheimer Information Meeting

On August 24, 2006 the Alzheimer Association held a Round Table Meeting at the Mound Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation complex.

The purpose of the meeting was to invite professionals, tribal citizens and anyone who has an interest in obtaining information about Alzheimer's Disease. The Alzheimer's Association of Oklahoma and Arkansas Chapter has an array of services offered to tribes & tribal citizens. I was very pleased with the participation not only from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation but also the representation from the other tribes from the northeastern part of the state. I want to thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for allowing us to conduct a very needed meeting!

Sincerely,  
David A James

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2006 Circle of Nations Christian Women’s Conference

BROKEN ARROW — The annual Circle of Nations Christian Women’s Conference will be held at the Arrow Heights Baptist Church, located at 3201 S. Elm Place on September 15 through 16. This conference is tailored to meet the needs for the situations faced in daily life, and walking with God with Biblical and real-life solutions.

The Circle of Nations Conference is open to all women and features Bible-based seminars, special speakers, special music, prayers, teachings, testimonies, food, fun, and fellowship. Women of all ages are invited including high school students.

Special Guests include; Oklahoma State Representative Lisa J. Billy, Deborah Brunt, Barbara Pack, Robyn Gomez.

Lisa J. Billy will share through motivational stories how God can transform your life from



Billy

one built upon excuses to one empowered by God. She will share her testimony of how God planted a seed within her heart to climb over the mountain of excuses and reach HIS plan for greatness and how she became the author of the strongest pro-life legislation for the State of Oklahoma. God calls each of us to use the ‘ordinary’ to become the ‘extraordinary.’ Lisa Johnson-Billy has been married to Phillip Billy for 15 years and they have three children, Masheli, Nahinli, and Anoli.

Lisa and Phillip attend Glorietta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Deborah Brunt, is the author of four books, contributed to six others and has written more than 1,500 published articles. Her newest book is named “Focused Living in a Frazzled World: 105 Snapshots of Life.” Her “Table Talk” column appears monthly in the women’s devotional magazine, *Journey*. A speaker with passion for unlocking the truth and

going wherever it leads, Deborah challenges women, in particular, to pivotal involvement in things that really matter.

Barbara Pack will share God’s calling in her life to a speaking, evangelism, and prison ministry. For the past two years she has given her testimony to pastors around the state for Gideon’s and is involved with the Christian Country Music Association in Nashville, Tennessee. The Lord gave Barbara a vision for an after-care ministry to women coming out of prison or jail, helping them start life over with the center of their lives. She is passionate in her love for Christ and relates to women form all walks of life.

Music will be provided by Robyn Gomez, a featured recording Christian Artist, whose music is described as uplifting, reflective, and encouraging. Wife, mother, and homemaker, she was raised in southeastern Oklahoma where her love of music was instilled at an early age. When asked to describe her music, Robyn responded “The music that God has given me, both through His Word and my life experiences would best be expressed as honest, worshipful, and inti-



mate.” Robyn just recently finished writing and recording her third CD titled “Longing.”

Also, the Morning Star Baptist Church Praise Team will be in attendance. The Morning Star Baptist Church Praise Team is an inspired trio of young adults who sing for the love of Jesus. From intimate heartwarming lyrics to fun, upbeat music, they enjoy ministering unto the Lord and His children.

For more information or to download a registration form, log onto their website at <http://www.okindiansbc.org/circleofnationsmain.html>.

Conference Youth Stay Busy At Annual Conference Session

ANADARKO — The youth of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference stayed busy during this years Annual Conference Session held at the Southwest Regional Center near Anadarko

Included in the schedule for the conference were two opportunities for the delegates of the conference to see the youth in action. On Friday morning the youth led the devotions for the day. Ms. Courtney Tsotigh, Conference Council on Youth Ministries Chairperson, Noah White, CCYM Vice Chairperson, Jalissa Ross, CCYM Secretary, and Jacob Tsotigh, CCYM Member-At-Large, led the devotions which included two action songs, a scripture and Ponca Tribal hymn led by Noah White.

In addition to leading the devotion, the youth gave their annual report on Saturday afternoon which included a report of the past years

activities and special gifts given to the various leaders of the conference. Special survival kits were given to Bishop Hayes and wife Dee as a part of the report.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the annual youth banquet. The banquet is a time set aside by the youth to honor the graduating seniors and to have a short worship service. This year’s senior honorees included Courtney Tsotigh from Norman First American, Noah White from D.D. Etchieson, and Isaac Tartsah from J.J. Methvin. On behalf of the CCYM and the Conference youth the three seniors received a plaque recognizing them for their many years of service, and a student Bible.

In addition the youth heard a message from Ms. Jessica Weatherspoon a guest to the annual conference representing the Black College Fund and current student

at Bethune-Cookman College.

Over fifty youth were in attendance at the event held which was held at J.J. Methvin Memorial UMC.

In addition each evening the youth gathered for a time of games, recreation and ice cream. The games were led by the CCYM officers and the new Conference Youth Coordinators, Cordelia McHenry of Christ UMC and Christie Kernell of Billy Hooton UMC. The two new coordinators will begin work this summer.

The conference youth have only one remaining event on their calendar, which will be the Conference Junior High Youth Camp, to be held the last week of July. Following that the newly elected officers from the regions will be meeting in September to plan the calendar for the 2006-2007 year and also will elect conference officers.

Indian Falls Creek Update

DAVIS — Indian Falls Creek 2006 is in the books. We had a wonderful camp with 2,390 coming through the gates. Decisions are as follows:

Professions of Faith - 114, repentance - 86 and for prayer - 112. God truly honored IFC with his presence. The prayer time for Tribes and Leaders was a great success. Prayer for all 39 tribes in Oklahoma plus 12 others from across the nation were lifted up to God. Dr. Jordan was honored by IFC for 10 years of service and being a friend to our Indian people. God sent IFC two excellent preachers of whom broke the word and many responded to Gods call.

Begin praying for Indian Falls Creek 2007. The Board of Directors will be meeting at Falls Creek, September 15 & 16 to begin work on next years camp. The 2007

emphasis will be directed at our Youth and Young Adults. Start spreading the news, next year we will be in the New Tabernacle which seats 7,000 plus and is air conditioned. I can’t wait to see the finished product. Praise God! The dates for Indian Falls Creek 2007 will be July 30 - August 3. Begin making plans to attend.

Our IFC shirts were a huge success. The design depicted in silhouette Rev. Jimmy Anderson baptizing a lady from Arizona. IFC are still taking orders for these beautiful shirts. Prices - Children sizes - \$10, Adult Small - Extra Large - \$12, Double Extra Large - \$14 and Triple Extra Large - \$16. Send check, number/size of shirts ordered, and color to Victor Cope 514 Ann Drive Tecumseh, OK 74873. Make checks payable to Indian Falls Creek.



Indian Falls Creek 2006 T-shirts

Many Springs Baptist Church to honor Reverend

HOLDENVILLE — Many Springs Baptist Church will be celebrating to honor Reverend Jimmy Anderson for 50 years of service in the ministry on September 17, from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Many Springs Baptist Church. All churches welcome. Honored Speaker will be Russell Begay. There will a reception dinner after the services.

For more information, call Connie Buck at (405) 379-7493 or Tiffany Ahgoom (405) 379-3721.

The church is located five miles south of Holdenville on Hwy 48.

Church Revival

BIXBY — Bemo Indian Baptist Church will be having a revival September 6 through 10 beginning at 7 p.m. nightly. Everyone welcome.

The evangelist will be Pastor John Shomowith of Myrtlewood Baptist Church. Special music will be provided by Brother Byar Beaver with the Okfuskee Indian Baptist Church.

The church is located two miles north of Bixby on Memorial Dr., 1/2 mile west on 131st St., then 1/4 mile south.

Gospel Singing

OKMULGEE — Concharty United Methodist Church will be holding a gospel singing on September 23 at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

For more information, call (918) 366-8450.

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BIRTHS

Nathan Benny Drew Cloud

TAHLEQUAH — Nathan Benny Drew Cloud was born April 23 to Dustin and Shannon Cloud.

He weighed 8 lbs. and 11 oz.

Nathan is of the wolf clan and the newest member of Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground.

Paternal grandparents are Benny Cloud of Bristow and the late Deborah Dilbeck of Fairfax.

Maternal grandparents are Calvin and Letha James of Tahlequah.

Nathan has two brothers; Derek, age 12 and Daniel, age 7. He also has four sisters; Destiny, age 11, Deborah, age 9, Christian, age 6 and Sadie, age 2.



Giorgio Allen Dunn

OKMULGEE — Giorgio Allen Dunn was born June 5 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to George and Lisa Dunn.

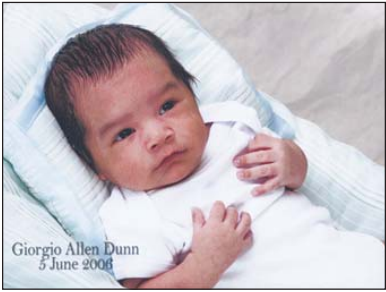
Giorgio weighed 7 lbs. and 4 oz., and was 19 ½ inches long.

Maternal grandparents are John Tottress and Ivalene Tottress.

Paternal grandparents are George and Barbara Dunn.

Paternal great grandparents are Charlie Holcomb and Eliza Sanders.

He has two older sisters, Destiny and Mercedes.



Kason Bower McGehee

CUSHING — Kason Bower McGehee was born July 11 at Cushing Regional Hospital to Kristopher and Danielle McGehee.

Kason weighed 6 lbs. and 11 oz. and measuring at 20 ½ inches long.

Paternal grandparents are Marsha Barnett and Dwain McGehee.

Maternal grandparents are Bob and Robby Booth.



BIRTHDAYS

Destiny and Alexandria Chino

PAWNEE — Destiny Gale Chino celebrated her 9th birthday on February 26 and Alexandria Louise Chino celebrated her 13th birthday on January 24, both with family and friends.

Destiny and Alex are the daughters of Theron and Stacy (Harjo) Chino.

Maternal grandparents are Henry Harjo Jr. of Tulsa and Sandra Harjo of Pawnee.

Paternal grandparents are Sandy Chino Sr. of Acomita, New Mexico and the late Diana Chino.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Henry Sr. and Judy (Wesley) Harjo of Wetumka and the late Phillip and Louise Mathews of Pawnee.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Frank and Margaret Histia of Acomita, New Mexico and Wayne Sr. the late Ameila Taylor of Second Mesa, Arizona.



Sadie Cloud

TAHLEQUAH — Sadie Cloud turned two years old on June 29th and celebrated along with her daddy, who turned 29 on June 26th.

Sadie is the daughter of Dustin and Shannon Cloud of Tahlequah.

Sadie is of the wolf clan and a member of Nuyaka ceremonial ground.

Paternal grandparents are Benny Cloud of Bristow and the late Deborah Dilbeck of Fairfax.

Maternal grandparents are Calvin and Letha James of Tahlequah.



Louis McCosar

HOLDENVILLE — Louis McCosar celebrated his 85th birthday on June 22.

A party was given in his honor at the Civic Center on June 24th with approximately 115 people in attendance.

Native gospel singing was performed by Betty B. Taylor and Dora Neconish.

Other performers included the Osceola Two, The Buck Family, Third Generation, Native Gospel Singers and the Lakeside Trio.

Trent Joseph Thompson

OKMULGEE — Trent Joseph Thompson celebrated his first birthday on August 29.

Trent is the son of Nicole Berryhill and Terry Thompson of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are Joe and Esther Berryhill of Okemah.

Paternal grandparents are Rita and Jake Nunn of Schuler and Harvey Thompson of Okmulgee.

Trent has one brother, Terry Thompson Jr.



MUSCOGEE PEOPLE

Creek girl crowned HOPE Club Princess

TAHLEQUAH — Courtney Quoinquodle (Redhorn) Reeder is the 2006-2007 HOPE (Honoring Our People Existing) Club Princess.

She is a sophomore at Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah.

Courtney plays basketball and is a member of the 2005 Class 2A State Champion cross country team.

Reeder is the daughter of Sonya Reeder of Tahl-equah.

Her grandparents are Clifford and Elizabeth (Long) Reeder of Oklahoma City.

Her great grandparents are the late Rev. Newman and Hattie Long and the late Adam and Helen Kaulaity.

She is of Creek and Kiowa descent and from the Tiger clan.



Creek serves as student page for Oklahoma House

SEMINOLE — Jalin Keawphalouk of Seminole High School was recently selected among many students across the state to attend the 2006 Oklahoma Boys State Delegation, sponsored by the American Legion.

He participated in many leadership activities as well as learned about the U.S. Government.

Jalin was also nominated and selected to be a student page for the Oklahoma House of Representatives. While serving as student page for State Representative Ryan Kiesel of Seminole, Jalin had the opportunity to study about the Oklahoma State Legislature and Government.

Jalin is the son of Yotin and Clara Keawphalouk of Seminole and the grandson of the late Toby and Hattie Alexander of Lamar.



Brewster signs with UCO

EDMOND — Robyn Brewster has signed a letter of intent with the University of Central Oklahoma to play soccer for the Broncos. She will play at the forward position.

Robyn was all-district, all-conference, and an all-state performer throughout her career at Muskogee High School. She was chosen as the Most Valuable Offensive Player for Muskogee High School the last two years.

She is the daughter of Patricia Wilson Brewster.

Brewster is the granddaughter of Barbara Chaney Wilson and great-granddaughter of the late Dora S. Colbert Chaney.

She is a member of the bear clan.



Brewster accepted to Nursing school

TULSA — Sarah Brewster, was accepted into the University of Tulsa School of Nursing.

This spring, she traveled with her class to England and visited several English hospitals. After completing her nursing degree, she plans to apply for nurse anesthetist school.

Sarah is the daughter of Patricia Wilson Brewster. She is the granddaughter of Barbara Chaney Wilson and great-granddaughter of the late Dora S. Colbert Chaney.

She is a member of the bear clan.



July Tulsa

DUCK CREEK — July Tulsa celebrated his 90th birthday on July 6th with a host of family and friends.

There are five generations in July Tulsa's family.

Mr. Tulsa was born on July 6, 1916.



ENGAGEMENTS

Burden, Greer to exchange wedding vows

SAPULPA — Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Burden of Weleetka are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Burden, to Reggie Greer.

Reggie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Earl Greer of Mounds.

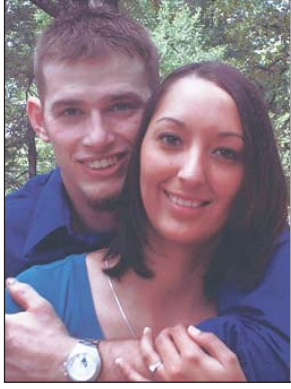
The wedding will take place July 7, 2007 at the First Presbyterian Church of Sapulpa.

Reggie is a senior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Mechanical Engineering and Math.

Katie is a member of the wind clan and her tribal town is Hitchita. Katie served as the 2006 Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation and is a senior at East Central University majoring in Biology. She will attend medical school in the fall of 2007.

The groom's grandparents are May Greer and the late Ralph Earl Greer Sr. of Mounds and Roland Kincheloe and the late Evelyn Kincheloe of Benbrook, Texas.

The bride's grandparents are Jerry and Dolores Wall of Okmulgee and the late Andrew Watashe and the late Bill and Mildred Burden of Weleetka.



**\*\*Tune in to the Muscogee Nation Radio Program every Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. on KOKL AM 1240. Listen for the extended hour program the last Wednesday of every month.\*\***

# Artist is Ventriloquist and Puppeteer

“ In the late 1970’s, Buddy left home, to pursue his career. Working with magic companies, puppetry companies and traveling across the United States and Canada with these companies and learning those valuable skills, was able to produce his very first production called “The Mini Pow Wow and Gifts and Legends.”

by Gerald Wofford  
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE— In November of this year, the longest running Native American Film Festival in the state of Oklahoma will celebrate its ninth year in existence. The Red Fork Native American Film Festival, formerly the Muscogee Film Festival will once again bring films, documentaries, and animations that are produced, directed, and showcase American Indian talent on the screen. Actors such as Wes Studi, Irene Bedard, and Graham Greene have been presented in their latest productions. Acclaimed Directors such as Chris Eyre and Randy Redroad have had their work shown in Oklahoma. A state with one of the greatest Native American populations in the country, but their work in film and video is not always known or seen here.

As with most events that continue to thrive and grow, traditions are made and become a part of the overall experience. On the opening night of each festival, a short video entitled ‘*Stumbling Bear-The Video*’ is presented. The humorous short little film was shot and edited by Native artist Dan Bigby of Stillwater. ‘*Stumbling Bear-The Video*’ contains the talent of puppeteer, Buddy Big Mountain.

With a little history about the festival being explained, we thought it would be nice to share with our readers a little more information about this extraordinary talent considering his connection to the film festival. From his web page at [www.buddybigmountain.com](http://www.buddybigmountain.com), here is a short bio:

Buddy Big Mountain, a self taught ventriloquist, is the first internationally recognized Native American Master Ventriloquist

Puppeteer. His hilarious blend of Native American comedy, ventriloquism, singing, magic and his beautiful hand crafted Marionettes has delighted audiences around the globe, bringing a spring of laughter and wisdom to the hearts of the people he performs for. His shy, but his youthful appearance and charming personality appeals to everyone he meets.

Buddy is a registered member of the Mohawk of Kahnawake Tribe of Canada and the Iroquois Nation. He is part Comanche, Apache from his father side and Mohawk, Welsh and English from his mother side. Being very proud of his family’s heritage, earned him as one of the most popular role models today for his

contribution on supporting his heritage as a Native American Indian.

Born in Newton, New Jersey, and raised in Catskill, New York, Buddy began his introduction to the entertainment world at the age of two. Traveling with

his family, Iron Horse & Family, Indian Dance Show, Buddy was able to experience the world and traveled to many countries such as Switzerland, Holland, Germany, France, and Italy. While in Switzerland, Buddy and his family was invited to perform their Native Indian Dances for the late Charlie Chaplin and his family.

In 1967, at the age of twelve, Buddy landed his first acting role on the series “*Gentle Ben*” at the Ivan Tors Studios, in Florida. While on the set, Buddy became friends with Jay Silverheels (Tonto, from the *Lone Ranger Show*), played ball with Ron Howard (Opie, from the *Andy Griffith Show*) and his brother Clint Howard (Mark, from *Gentle Ben* show) and remembered his favorite line, when he and the young cast sang “Jenny wears a flour sack dress!”



Ventriloquist and Puppeteer Buddy Big Mountain surrounds himself with his many talented cast of marionettes. Big Mountain began performing at the age of two and many of his characters are based on people he has met from all over the world.

Growing up in several Theme Parks across the East Coast of United States, Buddy lived a fascinating life. Buddy and his family lived on the Theme Parks property, so after the park closes, he, and siblings would have the park to themselves and play Cowboys and Indians without an audience. However, he does remember how lonely it can be without playing with other kids, because he would have to perform after school everyday for thousands of people. So while searching for a new challenge, he would visit one of the shows and watch this ventriloquist, the late Col. Bill Boley, who eventually became a mentor for Buddy. Buddy would practice every chance he could, saying “Let me out, Let me out” without moving his lips. Boley encouraged him to continue to practice and enter the world of Ventriloquism. In the late 1970’s, Buddy left home, to pursue his career. Working with magic companies, puppetry companies and traveling across the United States and Canada with these companies and learning those valuable skills, was able to produce his very first production called “*The Mini Pow Wow*” and “*Gifts and Legends*.” He would stay up at night building all his characters from scratch.

Today, Buddy has built some the finest piece of works that has ever hit the stage. Buddy’s first video “*Stumbling Bear, the Video*” was seen at several film festivals across the United States and Canada. In 1994, the video won “best animated short film” at the Native American Film Awards in San Francisco and an award from the Wind and Glacier Voices II, at the Lincoln Center, New York City. The marionette, *Stumbling Bear*, was the very first marionette Buddy had built.

In addition to his stage performances, Buddy has appeared on TNN’s cable television show “*Nashville Now*” with Ralph Emery, “*Music City Tonight*” with Crook and Chase, did a commercial spot for Silver Master Charge as Tonto, appeared in the play “*Running on Indian Time*” with Wes Studi and also appeared on many local talk and radio shows. His recent appearance was up in

Toronto, Canada for the first Native American Talk show “*Buffalo Tracks*.” Buddy has made two appearances since that show opened. Buddy has shared the stage in both worlds with many great performers such as his best friend Ronn Lucas (now appearing at the Rio Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada), Willie Tyler, Sinbad, Charlie Hill (first Native American Indian Comedian), Buffy Saint Marie, Floyd “Red Crow” Westerman, Williams and Ree (The Indian and The White Guy), another best friend Rodney A. Grant (Dances with Wolves) JoAnne Shenandoah, opened for Rita Coolidge, Foster Brooks, Seals and Croft, Merle Haggard and many great others. Buddy has

been a strong role model for the Education and the Performing Arts, whether performing for Colleges, Schools, Cruise Ships,

Conventions and many other events, he leaves a strong message that “He wishes to inspire all walks of life around the globe to follow their dreams, to keep a song in their heart and a smile on their face”. Popular demand has Buddy returning repeatedly at several major events and schools around the globe for over 25 years as



The famous powwow marionette dancer that was used by Buddy Big Mountain for the production ‘*Stumbling Bear-The Video*’. Big Mountain chose to use the marionette for the short video that was produced by Dan Bigby of Stillwater. The comedic short which features the dancer attempting to keep in time against a mountain background with falling off has become a part of the annual Red Fork Film Festival opening.

Master Ventriloquist Puppeteer. Clearly, what was once a young man’s dream has now turned into an established career and earned him the title “An American Aboriginal.”

## Documentary about Big Mountain in works

(from Henry Moore Institute)

A Documentary Film of Buddy Big Mountain will be produced/directed by David Rowe, from Wales, England. Any valuable information that you would like to share to Mr. Rowe about Buddy Big Mountain e-mail [dibigmtn@aol.com](mailto:dibigmtn@aol.com).

Writers Dianne Brooks and Wayne Hodge and Buddy’s wife Diana, have been collaborating to complete Buddy’s book working title “*Who’s the Dum-Me*”. Buddy wants to share his life as a child entertainer, his life on the road, the many up’s and down’s, his career and lot’s of pictures.

Pony Mountain Produc-

tion is in its early stage of tapping the first episode of Puppet Pow Wow “*A New Tradition*”. There is 12 episodes for the first season and there we will be running a contest for the 13th episode. The lucky youth ages from 7 to 17 that submits the most unique storyline and script will have the great pleasure to work with the directors and producers for Puppet Pow Wow Production, work closely on the set with Buddy Big Mountain, and maybe become a regular staff writer for the production.

For more information contact Diana Big Mountain at [dibigmtn@aol.com](mailto:dibigmtn@aol.com).



Buddy Big Mountain prepares another of his colorful marionettes for one of his many shows. A documentary about Big Mountain who has worked with native celebrities such as Jay Silverheels is currently in the works.

California Creek Association holds 5<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting



California residents at El Segundo Park.



Sonny Marshall-Sparks enjoying Creek Hymns.



Stockton area residents gathered for group photo.



Marcus Proctor of Tobacco Prevention Program.



Office of Public Gaming Acting Commissioner, Jason Nichols.



Lorita Shaver and Floreta Anama listen to the presentations made by MCN Directors and staff.

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Circles of Care

continued from A5

aries to plan and create a mental health treatment delivery system to accommodate the needs of children and families. This grant shall define and reduce gaps & barriers to services. The goals and objectives of the “To Carry On” project are: to promote community awareness of the prevalence of mental health, suicide & substance abuse issues among Native Americans; conduct community needs assessment of the existing service system, gaps, barriers and resources by using focus groups, surveys, and key informant interviews; develop a system of care plan that will be comprehensive, culturally competent, community-driven, and feasible; and to establish an advisory council that consists of community members, family, tribal leader, school personnel, juvenile workers, spiritual healers & providers to advise grant staff on matters relating to the project.

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TIMOTHY BIGPOND  
SAPULPA — Funeral services for Timothy A. (Tim) Bigpond were held August 27 at the Pickett Chapel Indian Methodist Church.

Tim was born March 9, 1959 to Roy J. Bigpond and Lilly S i m m s Cox.

H e was employed at K C F O Radio for the past 7 years but had worked in radio for 27 years.

He was a member of the Grace Church; he had ministered for 3 years in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and was a graduate of Rhema Bible School.

Survivors include: wife, Pamela of the home; two daughters, Teresa Higgins and Alisha Bigpond; two sons, Zachary and Donal Bigpond; four grandchildren; sister, Pauline Harjo; two brothers, Negiel and Gene Bigpond and also many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Casketbearers were Tobby Harry, Walter Gaston, Michael Pahsetopah, Paul and Allen Little Sun and Negiel



Bigpond

Bigpond Jr.  
Interment was at the Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

STELLA LOVINGS  
CROMWELL — Funeral services for Stella Marie (Tiger) Lovings were held August 9 at the Alice Mack residence with Leon Bell officiating.

Stella was born August 28, 1962 in Claremore to Tema and Helen (Harley) Tiger.

She grew up in the Cromwell area and attended school at Butner. She married Reginald Lovings and moved to Oklahoma City.

Her hobbies were playing fast-pitch and spending time with her friends and family.

Survivors include: her children, Delisa, Christian, and Rashad Lovings, all of Oklahoma City; brothers, Gary of New Castle and Joseph Harley of Checotah; sisters, Annette and Nettie Tiger, both of Checotah, and Wynett Tiger of Oklahoma City.

Pallbearers included Jarrod Madden, David Montoya, Gary Harley, DeMitre Thompson, DeMarcus Moore and Tony Butler.

Interment was at the Bell-Mack Cemetery near Cromwell.

DAVID PIGEON

DUSTIN — Funeral services for David Pigeon were held August 19 at Faith Baptist Church with Reverend Mike Anderson and Reverend Herman Huffman officiating.

David was born on February 13, 1953 to Robert and Velma (Chotkey) Pigeon in Weleetka.

He attended schools in the Weleetka area. Pigeon enlisted in the Marine Corps during the Viet Nam era and served a tour of duty in Viet Nam.

After his discharge from the service he then returned to Oklahoma. He had been employed in Oklahoma City as a lawn sprinkler installer when he became ill.

Survivors include: a son, David Pigeon III of Oklahoma City; daughter, Kristi; brothers: Tuffy of Holdenville, Oscar of Hanna, Paul of South Carolina, Bobby of Tulsa, Dennis of Dustin and Adam Pigeon of Oklahoma City; sisters, Esther Gryor and Stella Pigeon, both of Hanna and Lela Goodman of Dustin; two aunts; one uncle; and four grandchildren.

Pallbearers included: Dustin, John “Boo” and J.R. Pigeon, John Gray, Johnny and Blade Goodman.

Interment was in the Pigeon Family Cemetery at Hanna.

ELIZABETH ROBERTS

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Elizabeth “Lizzy” Roberts were held August 24 at

Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church with Reverend George Doyle and Reverend Robert Washington officiating.

Elizabeth was born October 28, 1919 in Okemah to Jim and Mattie (Dunson) Mashburn.

She attended school in the Okemah area as a child and later met and married Harley Roberts who became a minister. They made their home in and around Okemah.

Preceding her in death was: her husband, Reverend Harley Roberts, and two children, Amos Fixico and Emelene Canard.

Survivors include: her children, Mitchell Roberts of Aurora, Illinois, Harley Roberts of Big Cypress, Florida, Sammy Roberts of Rattan, Amos Roberts of Okemah, Steven Roberts of Lowell, Arkansas, Nellie Fixico of Okemah, Lucy Cloud of Bristow, Louise Roberts of Okemah, Rosie Hicks of Okemah, Martha Fixico of Castle, and Ladonna Beach of Glenpool; 35 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren.

Interment was at the Nuyaka Cemetery in Okemah.

IRENE TIGER

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Irene Tiger were held August 22 at Buckeye Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Jimmy

Alexander and Rev. Andrew Johnson officiating.

Irene was born January 4, 1942 in Okemah to Rev. C. D. Harjo and Pauline Marie (Sands) Harjo.

She and Artman Tiger were married May 21, 1963 in Miami, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Tiger was retired from American Airlines and from Sabre. She was very active with the Thunder Road Theatre Company in Tulsa.

Preceding her in death was her parents and two brothers.

Survivors include: her husband, Artman of Owasso; two daughters, Melinda Shirley of Owasso and Melissa Allen of Broken Arrow; three brothers, Wayne Harjo and Stephen Harjo, both of Tulsa and Wilson Harjo of Chula Vista, California; three sisters, Ora Day of Chula Vista, Carol Powell and Hulda Little, both of Tulsa and two grandchildren.

Pallbearers included: Victor Gutierrez, Clark Gutierrez, Jimmy Gutierrez, Mitch Traylor, Raymond Lowe, and Freeland Powell.

Honorary bearers included: Eddie Hensley, Jim Coop, Wendell Bigpond, Don Bailey, and Bob Hicks.

Interment was at the Greenleaf Cemetery in Okemah.

Legislative

continued from A3

(CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE LEGAL SERVICES COURTS COSTS & PUBLICATION FEE REVOLVING FUND **Sponsor: Anthony Notaro (\$4,466.26)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-149**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO YOUTH CENTRAL/GREEN COUNTRY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, INC. FOR THE 2006 SUMMER CAMP **Sponsor: Pete Beaver; Co-Sponsor: Eddie LaGrone**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-150**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE A SET OF THE MVSKEKE LAW REPORTER FOR EACH NATIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE **Sponsor: Anthony Notaro (\$5,200.00)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-151**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE TRIBAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM **Sponsor: Anthony Notaro; Co-Sponsor: Shirlene Ade (\$20,000.00)**

•**APPROVED (18-0-0) NCA 06-154**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION REVISING THE 2003 INDIAN HOUSING PLAN AS APPROVED BY NCA 03-123, AMENDED BY NCA 04-150, 05-081 AND 06-089 **Sponsor: Robert Jones**

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS MCINTOSH WAS EXCUSED THEREFORE, EIGHTEEN PRESENT AND EIGHT ABSENT.

•**WILL RETURN TO COMMITTEE (11-6-0) NCA 06-156**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE OKMULGEE INDIAN COMMUNITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SMOKE SHOP AND WELCOME CENTER/GIFT SHOP **Sponsor: Jeff Fife**

(**\$38,165.00**)

VOTING NO WERE: **TOM PICKERING**, MCINTOSH DISTRICT; **ROBERT JONES**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **KEEPER JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **JEFF FIFE**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **BO JOHNSON**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT; **JAMES JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;

•**APPROVED (17-0-0) NCA 06-158**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA 06-072 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EIGHT (8) NEW FLAG POLES FOR THE VETERANS' MEMORIAL PARK AT THE MCN COMPLEX) **Sponsor: Eddie LaGrone**

•**APPROVED (17-0-0) NCA 06-161**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS NEEDED FOR THE PRINCIPAL PAY-

MENT DATE AS DEFINED WITHIN AMENDMENT TWO OF THE CONSTRUCTION LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN JP MORGAN CHASE, N.A. AND THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION FOR THE KOWETA CLINIC **Sponsor: Johnnie Greene; Co-Sponsor: Richard Berryhill (\$1,959,000.00)**

•**APPROVED (12-5-0) NCA 06-162**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO THE JUBILEE CHRISTIAN CENTER OF OKMULGEE FOR THE PURCHASE OF ASPHALT FOR THE CENTER'S DRIVEWAY **Sponsor: Keeper Johnson (\$22,500.00)**

VOTING NO WERE: **LENA WIND**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; **BILL FIFE**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT; **JAMES JENNINGS**, OKMULGEE DISTRICT;

•**APPROVED (16-1-0) NCA 06-163**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION TO PURCHASE PASSENGER VANS FOR THE DEWAR AND TWIN HILLS INDIAN COMMUNITY CENTERS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR CREEK ELDERS **Sponsor: Keeper Johnson (\$52,178.00)**

VOTING NO WERE: **BILL FIFE**, OKFUSKEE DISTRICT;

•**APPROVED (17-0-0) NCA 06-164**, A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AMENDING NCA 06-109 (A LAW OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE MVSKEKE LANGUAGE PROGRAM THROUGH THE DIVISION OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT) TO PROPERLY REFLECT THE CORRECT APPROPRIATION AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE MVSKEKE LANGUAGE PROGRAM **Sponsor: Roger Barnett**

News in Indian Country: Indian voters in South Dakota win another case

by Rita Williams, Legislative Liason Affairs/Writer  
reprint from Indianz.com, Wednesday, August 23, 2006

Citing a “clear” history of discrimination against Native Americans, a federal appeals court on Tuesday ordered the state of South Dakota to redraw the voting districts on two reservations.

In a unanimous decision, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals said the state diluted the voting rights of members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The state packed reservation residents into one legislative district in violation of the Voting Rights Act, the court concluded.

“The record is clear that South Dakota’s history of discrimination against Native-Americans has limited their ability to succeed in the state political process,” wrote Judge Gerald W. Heaney for the majority. “The vestiges of this discrimination remain, dampening Native-American interest in South Dakota politics and af-

fecting the ability of Native-Americans to register, to vote, and to participate in the electoral process.”

The decision means the state must redraw two legislative districts on the Pine Ridge Reservation and on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. A third district is also affected due to the changes being made on the reservations, where voters are more likely to elect an Indian candidate.

Under a plan proposed by the Indian plaintiffs, “Native-Americans would comprise over 65 percent of the voting-age population in District 27, and over 74 percent of the voting-age population in District 26A,” the court noted. “Furthermore, each proposed district includes Indian-preferred incumbents, which increases the opportunity of Native-American voters to elect their preferred candidates.”

The case, *Bone Shirt v. South Dakota*, is the latest in a string of victories for Indian voters. With the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, tribal members across the state have successfully used the Voting Right Act to make changes at the local and state level.

“This decision will give our Lakota people an opportunity to elect our candidate of choice to the state legislature,” said Alfred Bone Shirt, one of the named plaintiffs. “Discrimination against Indians has been part of South Dakota politics for so long that it is only through cases like this that we have been able to see any positive change.”

Just this past May, the 8th Circuit revived a voting rights lawsuit filed by two Oglala Sioux women. And in July 2005, the court blocked the state from trying to change a voting plan without addressing

the rights of Yankton Sioux tribal members.

Other lawsuits have been resolved in favor of Indian voters. But the state has continued to fight tribal members despite being on the losing end in the past few years.

The *Bone Shirt* case was especially contentious because state officials and state lawmakers sought to delay it by going to the state Supreme Court and by filing appeals. Their tactics delayed resolution for nearly two years — U.S. District Judge Karen Schreier made the initial ruling in the case back in September 2004.

The stakes in the battle are high. Although Native Americans make up only about 8.4 percent of the state population, they are the majority in several parts of the state and have been able to sway local and statewide elections, par-

ticularly close ones.

“This is a victory for all South Dakotans because it reaffirms the importance of fairness at the ballot box, which benefits everyone, Indians and non-Indians alike,” said Bryan Sells, an ACLU attorney who was lead counsel on the case.

At issue in the case is Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, first passed in 1965. South Dakota is one of 16 states that must submit its voting plans to the Department of Justice for approval due to a record of discrimination against Native Americans.

Conservative Republicans nearly derailed reauthorization of the act this year by trying to remove the approval provision. They were defeated in the House and the bill was eventually signed into law by President Bush in July.

HOT CORNER

BY

JASON SALSMAN

It's finally here. I have waited long enough, and it's time to get the show on the road. There is perhaps no better time of year for a sports fan than the month of September, because it ushers in that unique exhilaration that can only be attributed to a new football season.

And here in the state of Oklahoma, football season is something of a fever pitch every year about the time the leaves start falling. There is good reason for that. Oklahoma sports history is rich in gridiron accomplishment and tradition. We not only recognize that, but it's evident all over. Case in point; you ask someone from outside Oklahoma what a "sooner" is and the response you will get 90% of the time won't have anything to do with the land run! But, we are wise to embrace those things. It's part of the identity of this state. All across Oklahoma on Friday nights the small towns are under the lights watching their beloved high school teams. Now, I know people love to believe that Texas high school football is the elite, but I would dare say that it is just as popular and well played just north of the Red River.

Speaking of high school football, players specifically, I had the pleasure of interviewing one of the best running backs in the state recently for a magazine article. Vian's Vfastv Locust, a Creek Indian, set the high school football landscape in Oklahoma on its side last year with a mind-boggling 57 touchdowns. That mark was good enough to set a new state single-season record. He also averaged close to 17 yards per carry which is almost laughable. He runs patiently, making surgically precise cuts while weaving his way down the field with a burst of quickness and speed that is unmatched. But his best quality is humility. He doesn't concern himself with records and individual glory, he just wants the team to succeed. The ability to have that mindset as an athlete in 2006, makes Vfastv Locust a rare rose in a garden of weeds. Not only the Creek Nation, but all Native Americans should be proud of this super athlete.

In the college football world, things are absolutely crazy. When was the last time we had about 10 teams that begin the season with a legitimate shot at a national championship? And here's a bold prediction; I don't think there will be one undefeated team when the smoke clears. Ahh yes, it was only a matter of time before parody was rampant in the college game.

All the faithful readers of this column from Okemah, Oklahoma to McKinney, Texas know that I would not fail to discuss some baseball. There is plenty to discuss on this end because I am not a fan of some of these teams, my beloved St. Louis Cardinals being the worst, tripping over themselves down the stretch. I know that their back-to-back 100 win seasons and playoff clinchers before September have spoiled me, and I guess it's just time for me to accept that baseball is also plagued by that thorn in my side; parody.

Oh well, why am I complaining. The average sports fan would be lying if they said they liked blow-outs over nail biters. We love our drama. Kirk Gibson's walk-off, Jordan's countless buzzer beaters, Von Schamann's "kick" at Ohio State. I think you get the picture. Think about it, what's the point if there isn't any suspense. Sports has made a living off of the fact that the only sure thing is that nothing's for sure. One thing is for sure, however, I'm sure glad it's that time again.

NABI Tournament running full force

in 2006

Creek citizen Randy July pitches in for the Oklahoma squad

By Jason Salsman

MNN Sports Reporter

PHOENIX — Every year in July, Native Americans from across the U.S. and Canada come together for the Native American Basketball Invitational.

This year the tournament featured 24 teams chocked full of fantastic Native American talent. Competition and creating opportunities have been staples of this tournament since its inception in 2003. The tournament has increased its credibility landing major sponsorships from Nike, Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks just to name a few.

Since it started, the tournament has gained an abundance of notoriety which has allowed organizers to attract the visitation of college scouts and recruiters.

Noted success stories in the Native community spoke to those that attended this year's event. "I came from an era where we used to jump in beat-up cars and go play on worth-

less courts," said Tex Hall, President of the National Congress of American Indians. He noted that the tournament's

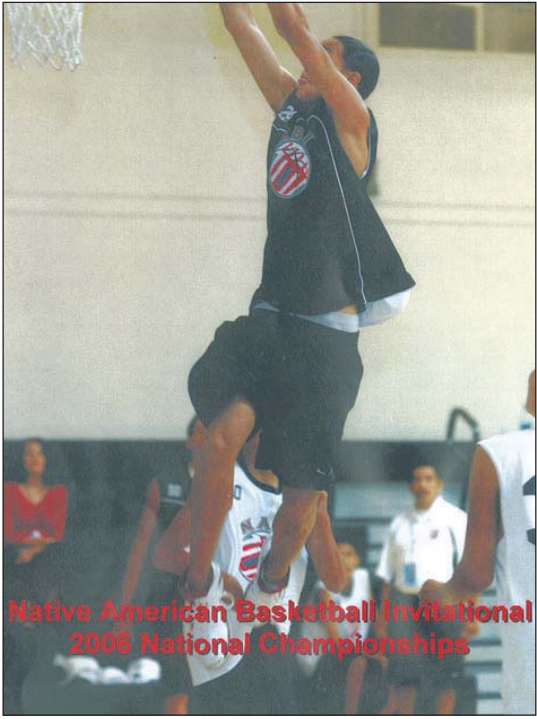
Several tribes were represented at the event including Creek Nation, with Randy July Jr. suiting up for a team. In a four game span, Randy racked up 71 points (17.8 per game), pulled down 29 rebounds (7.3 per game) and dazzled the crowd with 4 dunks. Randy, 16, is a junior this year at Tahlequah Sequoyah High School and lives in Tulsa.

He is the son of Randy July, Sr. of Tulsa, the grandson of the late Betty Ann (Deere) and Mose July of Tulsa. He is the great grandson of the late Hannah (Smith) and Wiley July of Checotah and Lois (Greenwood) and Dean Deere of Eufaula.

Randy is a member of the Deer clan and his tribal town is Alabama-Quassarte.

*\*\*I would like to thank Randy July, Sr. and www.nabihoops.com for the information used in writing this article.*

home is Phoenix's beautiful America West Arena, home to the NBA's Suns. "This tournament should show that there are people willing to invest in you."



Randy July, Jr.

4 Love of the Game to

hit newsstands

by Jason Salsman

MNN Sports Reporter

HENRYETTA—If you are out there right now reading this article and you are frustrated, confused, wondering when there is going to be a source for non-stop Indian sports news, you should take a deep breath because help is on the way. 4 Love of the Game organization is working at this moment on the debut issue of their magazine, *4 Love of the Game*, that will feature the brightest Indian athletic stars of today and tomorrow. The magazine's first issue, scheduled for release in September, will pay homage to some of the local athletes that have achieved notoriety in this region. The cover of the September issue will feature Tahlequah Sequoyah phenom Angel Goodrich, the top girl's basketball player in the state according to CoachesAid.com. In addition, there will also be a feature story on Vian's Vfastv Locust, a Creek Indian who holds the state record for touchdowns in a single season. The magazine will not forget the past, highlighting each month accomplishments from the many Indian athletes that have become legends to those that recognize their efforts.



Creek country teams ready for big seasons

by Jason Salsman

MNN Sports Reporter

One of the reasons that it is so great to be an Oklahoman during the fall season is being able to watch all the great high school football action each year. With the parody that exists in high school ball, there is an abundance of teams that have title aspirations going into this season.

An added bonus is that for those of us here within the boundaries of the 11-county Creek Nation, some of the best teams in the state are right here in our backyard. So if you are looking for some quality football you're not going to have to travel that far. Here are a few teams in the area that are worth taking a look at:

**Hilldale Hornets**  
Head Coach: Don Hendrix  
Last year: 10-2 (Lost in quarterfinals)  
Returning starters: 5 offense, 6 defense  
Key games: Oct. 13 vs. Gibson, Oct. 19 at Sallisaw

**The Lowdown**  
Nobody saw Hilldale's surprise run last year but the Hornets. Out of the gate with 8 straight wins, including big



notches over Eufaula and Sallisaw, Don Hendrix's club looked to be a force into the playoffs. Unfortunately they ran out of gas when the second season arrived, but they look to build on the momentum of last year's success. Gone is Brent Brown, who did most of the work with the offense, but Quarterback Lance Rolland is a proven play-maker and Hendrix has built his reputation as a savvy coach. I am, however, concerned about some injuries in the early scrimmage season.

**Prediction: 7-3, Playoffs**

**Muskogee Roughers**  
Head Coach: Matt Hennesy (1st year)  
Last year: 8-5 (Lost in state semifinals)  
Returning starters: 8 defensive, 9 offensive  
Key games: Week 3 at Union, Week 6 at Jenks, Week 8 vs. Booker T. Washington

**The Lowdown**  
First-year head coach Matt Hennesy is in a great situation. He inherits a team that should have zero growing pains with 17 starters back and the best offensive combination in the state in dual threat Quarter-



back Rell Lewis and the elusive tailback Dre Stout. The added bonus here is that the team won't be warming up to a new face on the sidelines. Hennesy was an assistant last year under legendary coach Ron Lancaster. Hennesy's only problem, he admits, finding enough touches for the explosive players that make up his offense. And it's not like they need it, but Muskogee will have a chip on their shoulder after a very controversial ending to their season in last year's semifinal loss to Mustang. It's been 20 years since the Roughers won a state championship, and this writer thinks that they are due.

**Prediction: 8-2, State Champions**

**Bixby Spartans**  
Head Coach: Patrick McGrew (9th year)  
Last year: 12-2 (Lost in title game)  
Returning starters: 6 offense, 9 defense  
Key games: Week 1 vs. Jenks, Week 5 at Shawnee

**The Lowdown**  
There is a reason that Patrick McGrew's team is rated #1 in Class 5A. With 15 starters



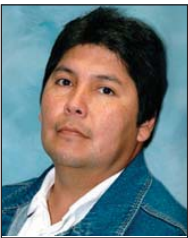
returning on a team that was one costly fumble away from a state championship, the Spartans have something to prove and they have the personnel to do so. They don't kill you with finesse, just plain smash mouth football. Last year, Marshall Fraley literally carried the load racking up over 2,000 yards on the ground. But Fraley has graduated and in steps little brother Altland, who coaches believe is more than capable to fill the void. Couple that with Quarterback Chase Boles and an absolute defensive nightmare in Jared Glover (19 sacks in '05) and the Spartans appear loaded for a run. There are some interesting match-ups on the schedule to challenge them early. By the time this paper is out they will have already played 6A powerhouse Jenks. By then we should know if they mean business or not. They also travel to Shawnee to take on the Wolves and the now "infamous" Tucker Brown.

**Prediction: 9-1, State Champions**

Those teams and more are why it will be an exciting high school football season to watch within the Creek Nation for the year 2006. Others to watch: Eufaula, Holdenville, Weleetka, Henryetta, Okmulgee.

OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

Should the MLB All-Star Game decide home field for the World Series?



All-Star team to want to try a little harder. The mid-summer

Oh, absolutely it should, I mean there should be some type of incentive for each league's

classic has always been an historic part of the baseball season. And in times past, just the joy of watching the best players from each baseball team go against each other was enough. But with times a changin', this added bonus makes the All-Star game much better, better for the teams, better for the fans.



ball. And that is saying something because he has had plenty

to choose from. I just don't see the justification in rewarding a team that may have had a worse season than their opponent the home field based on one game in early July that the players play for the fans. A World Series ring is something that a team works hard for all year. The All-Star game was always played before for fun, let's keep it that way Bud!



CONSTITUTION OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION

ARTICLE I

- Section 1. The name of this Tribe of Muscogee (Creek) people shall be the “Muscogee (Creek) Nation”, and is hereby organized under Section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (48 Stat. 1967).
- Section 2. The political jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be as it geographically appeared in 1900 which is based upon those Treaties entered into by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the United States of America; and such jurisdiction shall include, however not limited to, properties held in trust by the United States of America and to such other properties as held by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, such property, real and personal to be TAX-EXEMPT for Federal and State taxation, when not inconsistent with Federal law.
- Section 3. The official seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be the Seal as is illustrated:

ARTICLE II

- Section 1. Each Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood shall have the opportunity for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 2. This Constitution shall not abridge the rights and privileges of individual citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enjoyed as citizens of the State of Oklahoma and of the United States of America.
- Section 3. This Constitution shall not abridge the rights and privileges of persons of Muscogee (Creek) blood for purposes of claims against the United States of America.
- Section 4. This Constitution shall not affect the rights and privileges of individual citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in their trust relationship with the United States of America as members of a federally recognized tribe.
- Section 5. This Constitution shall not in any way abolish the rights and privileges of persons of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to organize tribal towns or recognize its Muscogee (Creek) traditions.

ARTICLE III

- Section 1. The Principal Chief shall appoint, subject to majority approval of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, a Citizenship Board comprised of five (5) citizens who shall be charged with the responsibility of the establishment and maintenance of a Citizenship Roll, showing degree of Muscogee (Creek) Indian blood based upon the final rolls prepared pursuant to the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137), and other evidence, as prescribed by ordinance.
- Section 2. Persons eligible for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall consist of Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood whose names appear on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 173), and persons who are lineal descendants of those Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood whose names appear on the final rolls as provided by the act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137); (except that an enrolled member of another Indian tribe, nation, band, or pueblo shall not be eligible for citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.)
- Section 3.
- (a)

All persons eligible for citizenship shall register as an applicant for citizenship; and
- (b)

The Citizenship Board shall certify citizenship, and the declaration of citizenship may be affirmed at any time with the name of the individual being entered on the citizenship roll, and the persons being recognized as a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, provided that:

(1)

the person is a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137), or the person is a lineal descendant of a Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137); and is not an enrolled member of another tribe, nation, or pueblo; and

(2)

has made application to the Citizenship Board to become a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;
- (c)

Except those persons who are Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood whose name appears on the final rolls as provided by the Act of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137), shall be automatically included as citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 4. Full citizenship in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be those persons and their lineal descendants whose blood quantum is one-quarter (1/4) or more Muscogee (Creek) Indian, hereinafter referred to as those of full citizenship. All Muscogee (Creek) Indians by blood who are less than one-quarter (1/4) Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood shall be considered citizens and shall have all rights and entitlement as members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation except the right to hold office.

ARTICLE IV

- Section 1. The Principal Chief shall appoint, subject to majority approval of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, an Election Board comprised of five (5) citizens who shall be charged with the responsibility of conducting, as prescribed by ordinance, all regular and special elections of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 2. Every citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, regardless of religion, creed, or sex, shall be eligible to vote in the tribal elections provided that (a) they are registered voters for elections; (b) they are at least eighteen (18) years of age at the date of election, with the registrant providing sufficient proof of age to the Election Board; and (c) they hold citizenship.
- Section 3. All elections shall be by secret ballot.
- Section 4. No candidate for office shall be considered elected:
- (1)

Unless the candidate receives a majority vote of the votes cast, or
- (2)

When a candidate is unopposed for office he/she shall be automatically declared the winner.
- Section 5. If there is any office in which a candidate does not receive the required majority of votes, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in that particular election.
- Section 6. Election dates for offices of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be no more than four (4) years apart.
- Section 7. All citizens shall be allowed to vote for the Principal Chief and any such national office that shall be created.
- Section 8. Only those citizens having legal residence in a district shall be allowed to vote in an election for that district.
- Section 9. All citizens having legal residence outside the herein defined jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall declare a home district within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation which shall be recognized as his legal residence for purposes of voting in tribal elections.

ARTICLE V

- Section 1.
- (a)

The Executive power shall be vested in and shall be known as the Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The Principal Chief shall hold office during a term of four (4) years upon election by majority of the votes cast. The term of office shall begin the first Monday in the new calendar year (January). No person shall serve office of Chief more than two (2) consecutive terms for which he/she is elected.
- (b)

No person, except a citizen holding full citizenship, having attained the age of thirty (30) and having been a legal resident within the political jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for one (1) year immediately prior to filing for office, shall be eligible for Offices of Principal Chief or Second Chief.
- (c)

In the case of vacancy, whether by removal, death, or resignation of the Office of Principal Chief, the line of succession shall be the Second Chief who shall be elected in the same manner as prescribed for the Principal Chief. In the event of a vacancy of the Office of Second Chief, that an election be held within 60 days to fill the Office of the Second Chief, unless it happens within the last six months of the term in which case the term would remain vacant until the next election.
- (d)

The Principal Chief and the Second Chief shall, at stated times, receive for their services a fixed compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period of which they shall have been elected.
- (e)

Before the Principal Chief enters on the execution of his office, he shall publicly take the following oath or affirmation:

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute The Office of the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and will, to the best of my ability, uphold the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.”
- Section 2.
- (a)

The Principal Chief shall create and organize the Executive Office of the Principal Chief; and
- (b)

With the advice and consent of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council appoint offices of the Executive Office. The National Council may, by ordinance, vest the appointment of such inferior offices as they think proper in the Principal Chief alone on in the officers.
- (c)

The Principal Chief shall have the power to fill vacancies by granting commissions which shall expire at the beginning of the next National Council meeting.
- Section 3. The Principal Chief shall prepare the annual budget requests and supplements thereto and with the advice and consent of the National Council administer funds within the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 4. The Principal Chief shall from time to time however not less than once a year give to the Muscogee (Creek) National Council information of the state of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and recommend for their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient. He may on extraordinary occasions convene the Muscogee (Creek) National Council.

ARTICLE VI

- Section 1. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, as it geographically appeared in 1900, shall be divided into eight (8) districts corresponding namely with the Counties of Creek, Hughes/Seminole (Tukvpytce), McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee/Seminole, Okmulgee, Tulsa, and Wagoner/Rogers/Mayes, in whole or portion thereof.
- Section 2. All legislative power herein shall be vested in the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, which shall consist of one (1) House with one (1) Representative from each district and one (1) additional representative for each 1,500 citizens. And further, that the number of National Council Representatives will be set at a maximum of twenty-six (26) members and additional seats may not be added without constitutional amendments.

(a) Each representative shall be elected by a vote of the district and shall hold office for four (4) years. These terms of office shall be staggered to ensure that one-half of the Council stands for election every two (2) years. Beginning with the first election after this amendment is approved, those persons filing for B and D Council seats shall serve for a period of two (2) years and those persons filing for A, C and E Council seats shall serve for a period four (4) years. The B and D seats will stand for election in two years at which time the B and D seats shall commence a four-year term.

(b) Each representative shall be a legal resident of his/her district for one full calendar year, prior to filing for office and shall be required to be an actual full time resident within that district for the term of office. When the representative ceases to be an actual resident of the district, they disqualify themselves as a representative of that district.

(c) No person shall be a representative who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) and hold full citizenship nor has a felony conviction within the past ten (10) years as of date of filing for candidacy, in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall elect from their numbers a Speaker, who shall preside over the Muscogee (Creek) National Council but shall have no vote unless the National Council be equally divided, and they shall choose a Second Speaker, who shall preside in the absence of the Speaker.
- Section 3. The term of office shall begin at the first meeting of the National Council following the first day of January and the oath of office shall be taken at the first meeting.
- Section 4. 

(a) A majority of the members of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall constitute a quorum to do business. A smaller number may adjourn or compel the attendance of absent members in a manner and under such penalties to be prescribed by ordinance.

(b) The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall judge of the returns and qualifications of its members, determine the rules of its proceedings, penalize its members for disorderly behavior and, with the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the National Council, expel a member from a meeting.
- Section 5. 

(a) The Muscogee (Creek) National Council member shall receive a compensation for his services, to be prescribed by ordinance and paid out of the Treasury of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(b) The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall choose its own secretary whose compensation shall be provided by ordinance.

(c) No Muscogee (Creek) National Council member shall, during their term of office, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation or such office which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no person holding any elective, appointive, or any other office whether compensated or not under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be a member of the National Council during their continuance in office.
- Section 6. 

(a) Every bill which shall have passed the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, before it becomes ordinance, shall be presented to the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. If he approves, he shall sign it; but, if not, he shall return it with his objections to the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal and proceed to reconsider it. If, after such reconsideration, two-thirds (2/3) of the full membership of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall pass the bill, it shall become an ordinance. In such cases, the vote shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the person voting for and against shall be entered on the journal of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council. If any bill shall not be returned by the Principal Chief within ten (10) days, Sundays and holidays excepted, after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be an ordinance as if he had signed it.

(b) Every order, resolution, or other act intended to reflect the policy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be submitted in accordance with the rules and limitations prescribed in case of a bill.

(c) Every ordinance, order, resolution, or other act intended to reflect the policy of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be stamped with the Seal of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and be signed by the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- Section 7. The National Council shall have the power (subject to any restrictions contained in the Constitution and laws of the United States of America) to legislate on matters subject to limitations imposed by this Constitution as follows:

(a) To promote the public health and safety, education and welfare that may contribute to social, physical well-being and economic advancement of citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(b) To negotiate with Federal, State, and local governments and others.

(c) To manage, lease, prevent the sale of, dispose or otherwise deal with tribal lands, communal resources or other interest belonging to The Muscogee (Creek) Nation or reserved for the benefit of such Nation.

(d) To authorize and make appropriations from available funds for tribal purposes. All expenditures of tribal funds shall be a matter of public record open to all the citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at all reasonable times.

(e) To enter contracts on behalf of the Nation with any legal activity that will further the well-being of the members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(f) To employ legal counsel.

(g) To borrow money on the credit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and pledge or assign chattels of future tribal income as security therefore.

(h) To lay and collect taxes within the boundary of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s jurisdiction from whatever source derived.

(i) To create authorities with attendant powers to achieve objectives allowed within the scope of this Constitution.

(j) To exercise any power not specifically set forth in this Article which may at some future date be exercised by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

ARTICLE VII

- Section 1. The judicial power of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be vested in one Supreme Court limited to matters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s jurisdiction and in such inferior courts as the National Council may from time to time ordain.
- Section 2. The Supreme Court shall be composed of six (6) members appointed by the Principal Chief, subject to majority approval by the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, and whose term shall be for six (6) years beginning July 1. No person shall be appointed as a Supreme Court Justice who has a felony conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Section 3. The Supreme Court shall, with the approval of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council establish procedures to insure that the appellant receives due process of law and prompt and speedy relief.
- Section 4. The Supreme Court shall be presided over by a Supreme Court Justice chosen from their own number and shall be in regular, quarterly-scheduled session, coinciding with that of the fiscal year.
- Section 5. The decision of the Supreme Court shall be in writing and shall be final.

ARTICLE VIII

- Section 1. The National Council shall enact an ordinance outlining procedures and causes for removal. Such procedures shall contain, but not limited to, the certification of the required petition, as provided in Section 2 and 3 of this Article and show of cause for removal, giving the accused an impartial hearing and allowance of time to answer to notice of such hearing.
- Section 2. A signed petition showing cause of removal containing twenty (20) percent of registered voters in a district shall be cause to consider removal of a council member.
- Section 3. A signed petition showing cause of removal containing twenty (20) percent of the registered voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be cause to consider removal of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and/or any member of the Supreme Court. A three-fourth (3/4) vote of the National Council shall be required for removal from office

ARTICLE IX

- Section 1. 

(a) This Constitution shall be amended by:

(1) Passage of an amendment ordinance before the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, which shall require affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the full membership of the National Council for approval.

(2) A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the eligible voters who vote in special election called for said purpose by the Principal Chief pursuant to the rules and regulations that the Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall prescribe.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Principal Chief to set such election date on the request of a majority of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council within thirty (30) calendar days.
- Section 2. 

(a) A Constitutional Convention shall be convened. The Convention shall decide the date of the next Constitutional Convention.

(b) The Constitutional Convention membership shall consist of the voters of the Nation.

(d) A Constitutional Convention Commission is hereby established and shall have the administrative responsibility and authority to conduct the Constitutional Convention. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall consist of one (1) person from each of the three branches of Government and one (1) person from each District selected by the Caucus of National Council Representatives of each respective District. In the event any District Caucus fails to make its appointment to the Commission on or before the first day of March in a convention year the seated members of the Commission shall have the authority to nominate and fill any vacancy.

(e) The Constitutional Commission shall organize and promulgate rules and regulations in February and proceed to carry out the process of a Constitutional Convention that will ensure citizen input and participation from throughout the Nation, completing their work on or before next February. The Commission shall conduct public hearings throughout the Nation to accept citizen views on constitutional amendments, revisions, alterations or additions and shall prepare a public report of all proposed amendments, revisions, alterations and additions. The Constitutional Convention Commission shall then work with the Election Board to prepare wording for separate ballots for each amendment, revision, alterations or addition to be submitted to the citizens at the election, completing this work on or before the last day of February.

(f) Constitutional Convention amendments, alterations, revisions or new articles proposed by such Convention shall be submitted to the eligible voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation at a special election, called by the Principal Chief within one hundred eighty (180) days, unless there is a General Election within one hundred eighty (180) days, and approved by a majority of the eligible voters voting thereon before the same shall be effective.

(g) The National Council shall enact such laws as are necessary to ensure a Constitutional Convention is conducted. The National Council shall appropriate necessary funds to accomplish the Constitutional Convention.

ARTICLE X

Section 1. This Constitution, when ratified by:

(a) Those eligible to vote herein defined as:

(1) Those persons whose names appear on the final rolls of the Act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 137) or

(2) Those persons who are lineal descendants of a person shoes name appears on the final rolls of April 26, 1906, (34 Stat. 137) and

(b) A majority vote of those eligible who are registered to vote who vote in this Constitution Ratification Election of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation provided at least 30 percent of those registered voters shall vote.

SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF RATIFICATION

Section 2. For the purposes of the first election of officers and representatives under this Constitution:

(a) Those persons eligible to vote shall include all persons registered for the Constitution Ratification Election and those persons thereafter registered who are Muscogee (Creek) Indian by blood and 18 years of age or more on the date of the election.

(b) Each district shall elect one representative.

ADOPTED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1979, by the Creek Constitution Commission in accordance with the Court Order of September 2, 1976, in the case of Harjo v. Andrus, Case 4-189, U.S.; District Court, Washington, D.C.

CREEK CONSTITUTION COMMISSION

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1979

Date

/S/

Bryant Jesse, Chairman

/S/

Louis Fish, Commissioner

/S/

Allen Harjo, Commissioner

/S/

Virginia Thomas, Commissioner

/S/

Robert Trepp, Commissioner

CERTIFIED:

August 20, 1979

Date

/S/

Paula L. Francis  
Recording Secretary

APPROVAL

I, Sidney L. Mills, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, by virtue of the authority granted to the Secretary of the Interior by the Act of June 26, 1936, 49 Stat. 1967, as amended and delegated to me by 230 DM 1.1, do hereby approve the Constitution of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation subject to ratification by the qualified voters as provided in Article X of said Constitution; provided that nothing in this approval shall be construed as authorizing any action under the Constitution that would be contrary to federal law.

Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC

Date: August 17, 1979

CERTIFICATE OF RESULTS OF ELECTION

The Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs Approved the foregoing Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation on August 17, 1979

It was submitted for ratification to the qualified voters of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was on October 6, 1979 duly ratified by a vote of 1,896 for and 1,694 against, in an election in which at least 30 percent (30%) of the 9,125 qualified voters cast their ballots in accordance with Section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936, 49 Stat. 1967.

/S/

Bryant Jesse, Chairman

/S/

Louis Fish, Commissioner

/S/

Allen Harjo, Commissioner

/S/

Virginia Thomas, Commissioner

/S/

Robert Trepp, Commissioner

Date: October 9, 1979